

The Brooklyn Paper

Including The Brooklyn Heights Paper, Carroll Gardens-Cobble Hill Paper, DUMBO Paper, Fort Greene-Clinton Hill Paper and the Downtown News

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PICTURE THIS

Rendering of a park-ment tower ignites firestorm of angry e-mails



Below, left, Cobble Hill Association member Roy Sloane's rendering of what he believes a proposed 30-story tower at the entrance to the planned Brooklyn Bridge Park waterfront development would look like. The Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation subsequently released its version of the tower view (below, right) and also overlaid what they believe to be more accurate dimensions onto Sloane's rendering (above).



By Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

Proving that a picture is truly worth a thousand words, a community activist and longtime supporter of the plan to build a Brooklyn Bridge Park set off a flurry of anxious e-mails this week when he distributed a computer-generated image of what he believes a planned 30-story condominium tower at the park's southern end would look like.

Roy Sloane, a member of the Cobble Hill Association who owns a small advertising agency and specializes in graphic design, circulated an e-mail with an image he created depicting how the park would appear from a western-facing view at Atlantic Avenue.

"My goal was to get an accurate picture out there and have an open discussion," said Sloane, who opposes plans by the park's state-appointed development corporation to finance the annual \$15.2 million operating budget by building five luxury residential buildings.

Unlike most parks in the city, Brooklyn Bridge Park, which is planned for the waterfront roughly between the Manhattan Bridge overpass and Atlantic Avenue, is mandated to be self-sufficient, paying for its own cost of maintenance. The city and state have agreed to finance the estimated \$150 million it will cost to develop the open space, commercial and housing development.

Since the plans for the housing were introduced to media and select community groups late last year, subsequent meetings held by the Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation (BBPDC) and its lead designer, the landscape architecture firm Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates (MVVA), have shown attendees various renderings of what the park would look like from a multitude of viewpoints as well as a model.

None of the images showed proposed luxury high-rise residential

See **PICTURE SPARKS** on page 17



Borough President Marty Markowitz, pictured last month with Kofi Annan, U.N. Secretary-General, is building bridges that may result in the international agency setting up permanent offices here.

U.N.-BELIEVABLE

Seek permanent office space in D'town B'klyn

By Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

Borough President Marty Markowitz has been lobbying United Nations officials to relocate to Downtown Brooklyn during the planned reconstruction of the international body's general headquarters in Manhattan — and the effort may be paying off.

Word out of meetings between Markowitz and U.N. Undersecretary General Christopher Burnham this week was that Brooklyn is not just being looked at for the seven-year relocation of their headquarters and General Assembly, but is also being seriously considered for a permanent relocation of some support staff.

"Undersecretary Burnham did

say, even if they don't decide upon Brooklyn as a temporary facility, they still would consider Brooklyn for a full-time expansion," said Greg Atkins, Markowitz's chief of staff.

Atkins noted that the July 12 meeting, which included Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce President Kenneth Adams and Downtown Brooklyn Council Director Michael Burke, did not include any real estate developers.

"In fact, we aren't even ready to be talking to developers in Brooklyn, but we took a delegation of business, educational institution and community leaders to go talk and we went to speak to Chris Burnham about why Brooklyn would be a great possibility," Atkins said about the half-hour meeting.

"We went to the U.N., we made our pitch and came home," he said.

Adams told The Brooklyn Papers this week that the U.N. was also eyeing Brooklyn for a permanent relocation of some type.

"I think the thing that struck me about the meeting was first, that the undersecretary made it clear that Downtown Brooklyn is certainly still on their radar screen [for the temporary relocation], but the thing that was a surprise was that he also mentioned his interest in Downtown Brooklyn long-term, that it is a possible site for some function of the U.N. permanently," he said.

Craig's New York Business reported Monday that the U.N. had narrowed the potential sites for the

See **UN MOVE** on page 13

Fort Greene sex shop turns heads



The Planet Pleasure shop at 527 Myrtle Ave. in Fort Greene.

By Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

To say that the new, neon-pink-lit, shaded-window storefront of Planet Pleasure, a sex shop on Myrtle Avenue — which also features surveillance cameras and a door buzzer — has turned a few heads would be a gross understatement.

But to presume, as many passersby do, that the Fort Greene store — more tamely referred to as an adult novelty shop — merely peddles pornographic magazines, videos and DVDs is ludicrous, says owner Michael Rizzi.

They only have some of those things, he insists, and to his way of thinking, a very classy selection, at that. A postcard advertising the business states that it is "Right next door from 'White Castle' and features such things as adult video, sex toys and lubes & lotions — 'What Ever You Pleasure' [sic]."

"Our store is like a Banana Republic if you walk in here," said Rizzi, 32, pointing out that the layout of the front of the shop features lingerie, undergarments and a selection of adult-oriented novelty items.

Some neighbors disagree. Only four weeks after the May 23 opening of Planet Pleasure, brown and gray latex paint was splattered across the swirling pink-and-black sign on the side of the building.

Other neighbors have taken more civil forms of resistance to the shop.

Sharon Barnes, who lives nearby, said she was concerned about what the shop would mean to the burgeoning strip on Myrtle Avenue.

"Of course, everybody would be concerned about this because it's a main shopping street, and we're working on making it better," she said.

"To have what most people would associate with pornography right out there along with the basic services, it alarms them," she added, pointing out that the shop, at the corner of Steuben Street, moved in next to Castro's, a well-known

See **PLEASURE** on page 8

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GO BROOKLYN

Ridgite gets Bing Crosby his due



Potter's field

Brooklyn Public Library librarians Marilyn Ackerman, Michael Santangelo and Allison Henden surrounded by the latest Harry Potter installment, "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince." BPL set a new record with its initial purchase of 1,155 copies. Online reservations for the book topped 1,150 copies before last Saturday's release. Reservations can be made at www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org.

Musician, body art expert dies on bike

By Ariella Cohen
for The Brooklyn Papers

If one thing is certain in the wake of the tragic death of lifelong Bay Ridgite Keith Alexander Bonanno, it is that his memory will live on, and under the skin of many of those who knew him.

Perhaps best known for his expertise as a body artist — specializing in piercing, cuttings and brandings — the 41-year-old Alexander (as an adult he dropped the Bonanno) lived the life of a modern-day renaissance man. He pursued his multiple passions as a body artist, rock guitarist — in the bands Carnivore and Primal Scream — and avid bicyclist even while maintaining a career as the chief technologist and digital project manager for a media company in SoHo.



Keith Alexander Bonanno, 41, died last week after a bicycling accident on the Shore Parkway bike path.

By Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

Despite mounting pressure from community groups, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority said this week it would not make public the details of two bids submitted by developers seeking to build over the Atlantic Avenue rail storage yards until the authority's board had completed its review of them.

A spokeswoman for the state authority also told The Brooklyn Papers that an independent appraisal of

the 8.4-acre site likewise would not be made public until after the MTA board review of the bids.

Forest City Ratner, the development company with whom the MTA has been negotiating for more than a year, and Extell Development, a Manhattan-based company that submitted a last-minute bid, both hope to secure development rights for the site. The rail yards stretch east into Prospect Heights from the intersection of Atlantic and Flatbush avenues.

Both Forest City Ratner and Extell officials have declined to make

See **REFUSAL** on page 17



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'Billy's Law' waits

By Jotham Sederstrom
The Brooklyn Papers

Six months after vetoing legislation to ensure more thorough inspections of the out-of-state mental health facilities that care for New Yorkers, Gov. George Pataki is expected to sign into law a revamped bill that supporters say goes much further than before.

Vito Albanese, father of Billy Albanese, for whom the legislation was named, applauded the new bill, which lawmakers in the state Senate and Assembly approved unanimously last month. If signed by Pataki, the law would establish a committee to monitor group homes in New Jersey, Connecticut and Massachusetts that care for 1,400 New York children.

"The new legislation is 10 times stronger than it was last year," said Albanese, who began fighting for the legislation after his son suffered abuse and neglect at homes in New Jersey. "Maybe it was for good reason that Pataki vetoed Billy's Law last year because now we got a stronger piece of legislation."

Most significant of the changes, said Albanese, is the inclusion of at least eight state agencies and one advocacy group, all of which will share the burden of monitoring facilities outside of New York, especially those accused of abuse or neglect.

Previously, only three agencies had been charged with inspecting the homes — with most of the responsibility resting on the state Department of Education and Department of Health. It was for that reason, said Albanese and others familiar with the legislation, that Pataki ultimately decided to nix the original bill.

This time around, a 22-member committee, with representatives from at least eight state agencies, will be in charge of overseeing the homes. "This is a great success," said state Sen. Marty Golden, who sponsored the bill with Assemblywoman Joan Millman. "It was one of those struggles that goes down to the deadline, but I'm just happy

we were able to put something together with the governor."

More than 1,000 young New Yorkers with mental disabilities are currently sent to neighboring states to be treated and educated, in part due to a lack of state funds. Until the law is passed, parents or legal guardians have no way of knowing if those facilities are fully licensed or even if its employees have been charged with abuse.

Albanese, a 65-year-old

Bay Ridge resident, said that his son suffered two comas, both lasting three months, while being treated at hospitals in Long Island and New Jersey. When his son awoke, Albanese made a decision to send him to a residential home in Haddonfield, N.J., where he had hoped Billy would have an opportunity to receive an education. But four years after arriving at the Bancroft School, Billy told his father that he had been abused and

physically restrained by staff members from the outset.

"They said he was a danger to himself and others, which is contrary to what he's all about," said Albanese.

A year later, in December 1998, Albanese filed a lawsuit against Bancroft Inc., the city Board of Education and the state Department of Education charging they had allowed his son to attend the program even though they had knowledge that it was unlicensed.

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Mugged from behind, loses phone on Remsen

By Lilo H. Stainton

The Brooklyn Papers

A man in Brooklyn Heights lost his cell phone to a robber who he believed jammed a gun into his back.

The victim, 19, of Queens, told police he was standing on the northeast corner of Remsen and Clinton streets at 9:30 pm on July 13, about to make a call from his cell phone, when he was attacked from behind.

The suspect then snatched the cell phone — a Motorola valued at \$200 — and ran down Clinton Street.

The victim and a stranger chased the robber down Clinton Street, where he lost his pursuers.

The victim described his attacker as a light-skinned Hispanic man, about 5-foot-9 and 140 pounds, with short black hair. He was wearing a black sneaker jacket and blue sneakers.

Tow-man drag
An angry motorist took matters into his own hands when he saw an NYPD tow truck operator hoisting up his car in Downtown Brooklyn.

A police officer said he witnessed the motorist become enraged as the tow truck operator prepared to remove the man's Nissan, parked on Fulton Street at DeKalb Avenue, around 5:30 pm on July 14. The Nissan was hitched to the truck, but still on the street.

The observing officer said the man was arguing with the tow operator through the window as the car was being lifted onto the truck's bed. The suspect then jumped into the tow truck and reversed the machinery, backing his Nissan onto the street.

The motorist then jumped into the Nissan and started to drive off. The tow operator tried to stop the man, and was dragged along the street. He was treated and released from an area hospital with cuts and scrapes on his left calf and upper leg, police said.

Police described the suspect as a dark-skinned black man,

about 5-foot-10 and 190 pounds, dressed in a black hat and white sneakers.

The man, who is wanted on felony assault charges, also had what police described as a tribal band tattooed around his arm.

Clean steal
A thief grabbed a Honda Civic as it emerged from an Atlantic Avenue car wash.

The owner, 49, of Fort Greene, told police he had left his car on July 11 for an inspection at a service center, on Atlantic Avenue at Boorum Place. When the manager called him around 2 pm to say the job was done, the victim went to the garage, but didn't see his car, a tan 2000 sedan.

The manager then pointed him toward the nearby car wash and told him his vehicle should be emerging — clean and shiny — momentarily, the victim reported. When the car never appeared, the manager questioned the car wash attendant.

The attendant said the car must have been stolen, snagged by an unknown man as soon as a car wash employee had stepped out of the newly cleaned vehicle. Employees at the facility could not say what the robber looked like, or in which direction he fled.

Subway mug
A woman was robbed at gunpoint July 11 in a subway station on Smith Street at Bergen Street.

The woman told police she was near the now-unmanned token booth at the F and G train station just after midnight when a man approached and pushed a black handgun to her cheek and demanded: "Give me your [expletive] bag."

The victim turned over her purse and the robber fled with two accomplices, running out of the subway station and onto Smith Street. The woman told police the bag held \$160, two debit cards and three credit cards, a photocopy of her California driver's license, a cell phone, her house keys and her passport.

Vinegar mugger

A Vinegar Hill woman lost her purse to a mugger who appeared to have a gun, in an early morning robbery on July 16.

The victim, a Hudson Avenue resident, told police she was walking home along Water Street, between Bridge and Gold streets, at 3:40 am, when she was accosted by a man who made like he had a gun under his short. The mugger demanded she turn over her purse.

She gave him the bag, which contained \$50, her cell phone and keys, and the robber fled.

Welcome home

Thieves struck a Pacific Street home — netting cash, jewelry and video games — when the owners were on vacation the weekend.

The owners told police they left their home, between Third Avenue and Nevins Street, at 7:30 am on July 14. When they returned, at 7:55 pm on July 17, the front door was unlocked and the goods were gone.

The victims reported missing \$110 in cash, diamond earrings valued at \$400, other jewelry valued at \$200, a Sony PlayStation, a Gameboy and an estimated \$1,000 in other video game equipment.

Bar hopped
Robbers stole cash and a TV from a Hoyt Street bar after last call on July 17.

The owner of the watering hole, between Atlantic Avenue and State Street, told police the bar was locked up at 5:30 am. When a worker returned at 4:35 pm, he discovered the burglary.

Police said the robbers pried the bars away from a window in the back of the bar and smashed the glass to get inside. The owner reported \$700 and a television missing.

Bikes snagged

Thieves stole two bicycles from an Atlantic Avenue building during the day on July 13.

The victim told police he left the apartment house, near Third Avenue, at 9 am. When he returned, at 2 pm, the window on

the front door had been smashed and the door was jammed and forced open.

The man said the missing items included a Wheeler 12-speed bike, valued at \$600, and a 12-speed bike.

DUMBO heist

Robbers grabbed nearly \$75,000 in high-end kitchen equipment — including dozens of Sub Zero refrigerators, Viking ranges and Bosch appliances — from the condominium conversion under construction at 70 Washington St. in DUMBO, say police.

Police received a report that the former manufacturing building, between Front and York streets, was burglarized sometime after noon on July 1, during the Fourth of July weekend, the crime was reported July 7, after the owner made a full accounting of the missing items, a police report stated.

The stolen goods include: eight Sub Zero refrigerators, valued at \$37,300; eight Viking cook tops, worth \$7,200; four Thermador ovens, estimated to cost \$5,600; three Bosch dishwashers, worth \$1,880; 11 Bosch dryers, valued at \$7,800; 11 Bosch washing machines, valued at \$7,800; five Bosch stackable washer-dryers, worth \$3,000, and nine wine cooler units, valued at \$6,000.

Empty register
The Macy's on Fulton Mall reported more than \$4,000 in cash stolen July 13 when a clerk stepped away from her register for 20 minutes.

An employee at the department store told police that the clerk locked her cash drawer and walked away at 9 pm on July 13. When she returned, around 9:20 pm, the register was locked, but the bills inside were gone.

The employee told police cash registers at the store are supposed to be emptied after \$700 is collected. He said no bank drop had been made that night. The man said a total of \$4,083 was missing from the register.

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Texas hold 'em — up

By Lilo H. Stainton
The Brooklyn Papers

A visitor from Texas was robbed July 17 as he walked along Warren Street.

The victim, 30, told police the thief approached him at 9:55 pm, between Fourth and Fifth avenues.

"Give me your money," the robber demanded, and then pushed the victim backwards into a fenced-off area.

The victim said his attacker then pressed an object — possibly a gun — to the side of his head, and stated: "I have a gun. I'll pop you. Give me your money."

The San Antonio resident said he complied, giving the thief his wallet, containing \$143, his Texas driver's license, Social Security card and several credit cards, including one bearing a Mets logo.

Police said the man described his attacker as a light-skinned black man, around 18 years old, 5-foot-8 and 170 pounds, with braided hair and a blue shirt.

Sunset slash

A 37-year-old man told police a female friend slashed him after he tried to fix the door at her Seventh Avenue apartment.

The man told police the woman, who he said was drunk, slashed him on the shoulder with a kitchen knife at 11 pm on July 12. He said the woman did not want him to leave the residence, just off 39th Street near Green-Wood Cemetery.

The woman was later arrested on assault charges.

Fanny pack rob

Thieves snatched the fanny pack of a man leaving a Ninth Street check-cashing business.

The victim, 31, told police he was approached at 11:05 am on July 12 by three strangers as he stepped out of the store, at the corner of Fourth Avenue. He said one man asked for a cigarette and, when he declined the request, another snatched the black fanny pack he was holding.

Witnesses said the trio of thieves then fled toward the F/M/R subway station on Ninth Street. A police search of the station and several

POLICE BLOTTER

trains did not result in an arrest.

The victim reported \$240, a cell phone, credit cards, and his personal and commercial driver's licenses, as stolen.

He told police the thief who asked for a cigarette was a light-skinned Hispanic man, about 18 years old, 5-foot-9 and 160 pounds, wearing a blue shirt and blue cap.

He said the other two attackers were black men in their mid-20s, both about 5-foot-8 and 150 pounds, and both dressed in white shirts and black caps.

Unlook mystery

Two Prospect Park West residents reported more than \$10,000 in home electronics stolen when their home was robbed, possibly by one of seven other people with keys to their apartment.

The women told police they discovered that their first-floor apartment, between 11th and 12th streets, had been burglarized around 7:20 pm on July 12. Police found no sign of forced entry and the victims, ages 38 and 23, noted that seven other individuals also have keys to their home.

The women said they lost three Dell laptops, valued at \$9,000 all together, an Olympus digital camera valued at \$500, a Panasonic CD player valued at \$500 and a Palm Pilot valued at \$500.

Tool time

Thieves snatched more than \$15,000 in tools from a basement on 12th Street, said police.

The victim, 32, told police he found the lock missing from the basement door of his apartment house, between Eighth Avenue and Prospect Park West, at 12:30 am on July 12. The lock on the second door was broken and the third door was kicked in, he said.

The basement had been secure when he checked at 8:50 am the previous day, he told police.

The man told police the missing items included: a \$5,700 belt sander, another sander valued at \$2,400, a third valued at \$1,600, a \$600

nail gun, a \$450 air compressor, plus several saws, screw guns and other tools.

Techno thief

It took a thief less than three hours to snag thousands of dollars in computer equipment from a Pacific Street apartment.

The victim, 23, told police she left her home, at the corner of Fourth Avenue, at 3 pm on July 16. When she returned at 6 pm, the place had been robbed.

The missing items included a Dell computer, a PC tower, a scanner, a keyboard and other accessories, she told police.

Dean St. burgle

A Dean Street resident was robbed of cash and a DVD player this week.

The 30-year-old victim told police thieves broke in through the basement door sometime between 8 pm on July 8 and 11:30 pm on July 11. The woman, who lives between Fourth and Fifth avenues, said the robbers scored \$1,700 in cash and a high-end DVD player.

Engaging theft

Thieves snatched engagement rings and a computer game from a man's home on 13th Street.

The victim, 37, told police he left his first-floor apartment, near Seventh Avenue, at 10 am on July 16. When he returned, at 7:25 pm on July 17, his goods were gone.

Police say the thief came in through a front window and left through the front door. The victim said the stolen items included a \$3,000 diamond engagement ring, a \$200 emerald ring and a Sony PlayStation, valued at \$150.

Hit for \$35G

Thieves walked into a Union Street store this week and walked out with thousands in cash, police said.

An employee of the business, between Fifth and Sixth avenues, told police robbers hit sometime between 11 pm on July 14 and 11 am the following day. After cutting open a small safe in a back office,

they took off with \$35,000 in cash, the victim told police.

Police believe the robbers came in through a back door, which was unlocked.

Auto thefts

Thugs hit five vehicles this week, stealing two motorcycles and snagging the airbags and a dashboard — from two cars, said police.

On July 12, a 2005 Yamaha motorcycle valued at \$10,000 — was stolen from Sackett Street near Fourth Avenue. The victim, 22, who lives on the block, said he parked the bike at 2 am and when he returned at 4:30 pm it was gone.

A woman told police her 2003 Chevrolet that was parked on Second Street near Seventh Avenue was robbed of its airbags. The victim said she left the car at 11:30 pm on July 10. When she checked again, at 6:15 pm on July 12, a window in the back had been broken and the airbags — and her dashboard — were nowhere to be found.

On July 13, thieves grabbed a 1997 Ford van that had been parked on Third Avenue near Butler Street, at 8:30 am. It was discovered missing at 1 pm.

Meanwhile, a 2000 Honda sedan lost its airbags — valued at \$3,000 — when robbers struck on Carroll Street near Eighth Avenue. The owner told police he left the car at 5 pm on July 10. When he returned at 7 pm on July 13, he discovered a side window in the back was broken and two airbags were gone.

On July 14, thieves snatched a 2004 Honda motorcycle from Sixth Street near Seventh Avenue. The victim, 22, of Queens, told police he left the bike at 2 pm. He wasn't gone long, but when he returned, at 3:30 pm, the \$6,000 bike was missing.

High noon

Thieves snatched an envelope full of cash from a Crown Heights man in broad daylight on Third Avenue.

The victim, 35, told police he was near 18th Street, at noon on July 12, when the robbers approached from behind.

One assailant said, "Drop it, dude," the victim told police, and snatched an envelope from out of his hands that contained \$3,135.

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Truck stop fight in Terrace

By Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

Neighbors of a Mobil gas station in Windsor Terrace have begun to rally against plans by the owners to develop an all-night truck stop, complete with diesel tanks for big rigs.

On June 21, around 35 neighbors stood outside the gas station on the small triangular block at Caton Avenue and Fort Hamilton Parkway.

"The fact that it is so busy right here is almost enough to put you over the edge," said Nicole Denham, whose apartment overlooks the Mobil station.

According to Exxon Mobil's application, the planned construction is to rectify damage caused by a fire that destroyed most of the existing



10-year-old Austin Vukosa joined the June 21 protest on Fort Hamilton Parkway.

buildings on the site.

The application — approved by the state Department of Environmental Conservation, which declared the project would not alter the essential character of the surrounding neighborhood — seeks redevelopment through a special permit application for a 28,256-square-foot lot bounded by Fort Hamilton Parkway, East Second Street and Caton Avenue.

Once people began to catch wind of what was being planned, the offices of Councilman Bill DeBlasio and Assemblyman James Brennan began receiving calls from neighbors asking for help in blocking the truck stop.

"It's a really nice, very diverse neighborhood. This neighborhood is not gentrified, it's a really comfortable, wonderful place to live," said Denham.

"and people, they don't want that element here."

DeBlasio said he supported the community's opposition to a truck stop there.

"Our community is united in opposing this Mobil station's becoming a stop for large trucks. This residential neighborhood already must cope with two busy truck routes. A truck stop that draws more traffic would be dangerous and inappropriate here," said DeBlasio.

"That's why Assemblyman Brennan and I petitioned the BSA to reopen its case and asked the owners of the Mobil station to take concrete action to assure this community that no diesel fuel pumps or other amenities to draw trucks will be added."

Both officials will be meeting with Exxon Mobil executives and the gas station owner

on Thursday, said DeBlasio chief of staff Peter Hatch.

In the meantime, locals are gearing up for another protest in front of the station this Tuesday and there are plans for a community meeting hosted by Brennan and DeBlasio at the Immaculate Heart of Mary school.

"We're not geared to do those big tractor trailers," said Marc Sarsans, the station's manager, who has worked for the family-owned businesses for 24 years. "We'll gear to mostly Mercedes and 15-footers, construction vehicles and plumbers — you know, local business."

"This place where we live here, it's a truck route. You would be a fool not to want to have a diesel station," said Denham.

"But I do live here, and I don't own a car, and I do rely on public transportation, and I don't want one."

Both Caton and McDonald avenues serve as local truck routes.

Ann Petrovski, an area resident and mother, said she is aware of four schools near the station, and doesn't like the idea of mixing young children with a truck stop.

"A truck stop with a 24-hour convenience store? You're talking trouble here," she said.

Previously, the Mobil station had only a small convenience store.

When neighbors saw how large the current plans were, Petrovski said, it became evident to them what was really going to be built — a truck stop.

"What would that bring? Maybe hookers, drug dealing, it comes with the 24-hour convenience store. Who knows, what they're going to put there?" said Petrovski.

Neighbors report that all of the schools nearby, Immaculate Heart of Mary, PS 130, PS 230 and Bishop Ford High School, appear to be in need of a crossing guard at that particular intersection. Aside from the inevitable traffic fears, one neighbor said the site has a bad history of fuel fires.

"Twice in my memory the gas station has experienced serious fires," said John Miller, who lives across the street on Caton Avenue.

"It's an eyesore to say the least. The fact that they have had two instances of fire already, it doesn't bode well for putting another flammable liquid on that site."

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Halt on 160 Imlay condos ... again

Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

Call it the luxury condominium project that New York judges just love to hold.

Work on a locally contentious, \$70 million, water's-edge development in Red Hook was halted once again, after the state's highest court, the Court of Appeals, agreed to review a lawsuit by local businesses and community groups contesting the city's allowance of the residential complex in the industrial area.

On July 6, Justice Judith S. Kaye, the state's chief judge, ordered a leave to appeal, agreeing to review the petitioner's complaint once again and halting construction at the former warehouse for the third time.

The progress of the developers, 160 Imlay Street Associates LLC, in converting the hulking six-story former book-binding facility into 144 luxury condominium lofts with sweeping views of New York Harbor and the Statue of Liberty is opposed by the Red Hook/Gowanus Chamber of Commerce, which has sought legal means to block the project every step of the way.

A spokesman for 160 Imlay Street Associates, Bob Liff, said the company would push ahead with its case for conversion.

The developer's pursuing all actions available to him," Liff told The Brooklyn Papers. At the behest of the court and petitioners, the respondents agreed to only continue construction that would be needed for the underlying as-of-right zoning, not the residential conversion.

Gary Spencer, a spokesman for the Court of Appeals, said the court is selective in choosing which cases to hear. "Litigants have to get the court's permission to appeal in most cases, like the [U.S.] Supreme Court gets to decide the cases it wants to hear," he said. "So the party files a motion to appeal, and the court either grants or denies it. In this



The condos at 160 Imlay St. have hit another snag.

case, it did grant the motion," though he said the court doesn't specify why there is interest in a case.

Spencer said the case is scheduled to be heard on Sept. 8, in Albany.

"It's purely a court of law — they just take the facts as they are established in the lower courts," he added.

Kaye said that retail and commercial developments planned by the developer may proceed on the ground level and second floor of the building, one of a set of twin warehouses that sits between Verona and Pioneer streets. Such commercial uses are included in the current zoning for the site.

The plan is for ground-floor retail and restaurants, and possibly second-floor gallery space for local artists, according to the developer, Bruce Batkin, a principal of Industry City Associates.

Though the suit against 160 Imlay was originally arguing against the merit of the city's granting of a residential zoning variance, which the Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA) passed in December 2003, much of the Red Hook/Gowanus Chamber's time in court has been spent defending the merit of their own suit, which has been dismissed twice so far for a procedural glitch — failing to name the developers in their original filing, which included the BSA and City of New York as defendants.

The technical error was made by the Chamber's for-

mer legal counsel, Peter Basta Brightbill, who filed the suit barely within the statute of limitations for arguing a BSA ruling. By the time the error was noticed, in February 2004, it was too late to fix it.

The developers filed a petition of their own to dismiss the suit, but that was overruled by state Supreme Court Judge Yvonne Lewis.

As Lewis was considering the case, the developers went ahead with their petition to the Appellate Division of the state Supreme Court, which ultimately dismissed the case due to the filing error.

The suit filed by the chamber — which includes local developers and businessmen Greg O'Connell and Douglas Durst — claims the variance granted by the BSA to allow the development of luxury condominiums in a heavily industrial area had not proven its burden of hardship.

The variance, which allowed four of the six stories to convert to residential development, was voted down when it came to Community Board 6 in late 2002. But that recommendation was ignored by the BSA.

Batkin told The Brooklyn Papers in May that plans for 62 Imlay St., the twin building adjacent to 160, for which he has not yet applied for a zoning variance, may seek similar luxury-style residential development, a hotel or both, despite the opposition expressed by the community board and chamber toward his first project.

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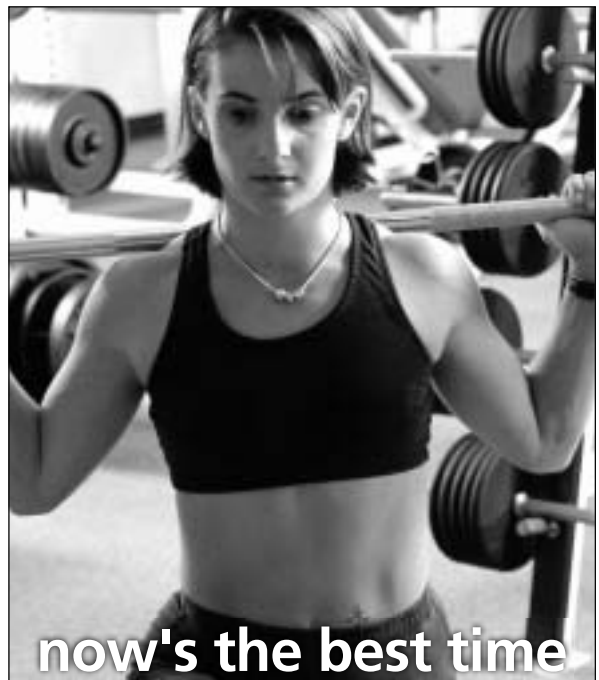


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Car hits mom, kids

By Lilo H. Stainton
The Brooklyn Papers

A man driving down Fifth Avenue in Park Slope July 19 jumped the curb and struck a woman and her two children on the sidewalk when he swerved to avoid a teen on a bicycle.

The family members were treated at Lutheran Medical Center after the accident and had been released by the afternoon of July 20. Published reports said the mother, 34, suffered leg injuries, while her 4-year-old daughter was tossed into the air. Her son, 7, had minor bumps and bruises, reports said.

Police said the man was driving down Fifth Avenue, near Third Street, just after 9 a.m. when a young bicyclist swerved into his lane.

The driver yanked the steering wheel, but couldn't avoid clipping the bicyclist, a 14-year-old boy who was thrown from the bike but only suffered minor injuries and rose to his feet to help the others.

He was treated at New York Methodist Hospital. The car then jumped the curb and plowed into a trashcan, before striking the Reyes family. Witnesses said the garbage bin protected the mother and children from further serious injury.

"If he hadn't hit the trash can first, that woman and those kids would have been demolished," a neighbor resident told Newsday. Published reports said the driver, 42, was issued a summons for driving with a suspended license. He was later arrested on a Family Court warrant for failing to make child support payments, Newsday reported.

An update on the charges was not available, since Family Court records are sealed, a court spokesman said.

PLEASURE...

Continued from page 1

Mexican cuisine, and across the street from the Super Associated grocery store.

Rizzi counters that his shop, which stays open until 2 a.m., adds rather than detracts from the commercial strip, which includes a White Castle fast food restaurant, a McDonald's Express, Blockbuster video and a late-night Chinese takeout.

"This [Store] turns the area into more of an East Village, Manhattan-type of area," he said.

In typical Brooklyn fashion, not everyone wants the old neighborhood to look like Manhattan.

Phillip Kellogg, president of the Fort Greene Association, said a group of neighborhood residents have been meeting to discuss the new business.

"The look of the place is certainly less than desirable, to put it lightly," said Kellogg, whose group is actively involved with preservation efforts in Fort Greene. "With so much happening in the neighborhood we've just got stars in our eyes about what else will bring this to the block, and, in this really a positive, productive use?"

Rizzi said that just as he believes his shop is right for the neighborhood, he also feels the neighborhood is right for his shop.

"The people in this neighborhood are liberal, they're artsy, they're First Amendment."

"The back of my store does have adult movies, and to you and the regular person, it looks like a sex shop—but it's not,"

he said. "The toys that you see in the front of the store, the lingerie, it's all non-adult. That is the law."

Since opening, Rizzi has received a few tickets from the city. But he maintains that the city's zoning laws regarding sex shops.

Typically, according to the Department of Buildings, which enforces compliance with the zoning regulation, adult stores are allowed in manufacturing districts, but "they can't be within 500 feet of sensitive receptors—churches, schools, daycare facilities," said Jennifer Givner, a Buildings Department spokeswoman.

Planet Pleasure, says Rizzi, is not an adult store. To constitute an "adult establishment," more than 40 percent of Planet Pleasure's floor stock would have to consist of pornographic magazines, movies, photographs, dancers or peep booths.

"The day they wrote the summons we were closed," he said of a ticket received on May 17. "We are completely in compliance."

[The Buildings Department is] making a violation out of pressure from the neighbors," Rizzi added.

"The Pink Pussycat [Boutique] is in a residential area," Rizzi said, referring to an adult novelty store that made waves when it opened three years ago in Park Slope, on Fifth Avenue between Fourth and Fifth streets, directly across the street from a public middle school. "And [our] other store in Staten Island is right down the street from a day care center."

He and business partner Paul Leunes own two other Planet Pleasure shops—both

on Staten Island.

"If anyone in the community wants me to do something to help," said Rizzi, "I'm willing to do anything to help them out."

Givner said the violations were issued as a result of complaints by community members, backed up by an inspection.

"The owner doesn't know we went in to observe his stock," she said, because their officer was undercover. The violation was for "operating an unlawful adult establishment," she said, with more than 40 percent of the stock featuring pornographic material.

On May 31, another violation was issued, following a complaint the week before, for "operating an unlawful adult establishment within 500 feet of a C-2 zoning district."

Rizzi said he is challenging these summons, as well. Givner said that is his right.

"We've begun a legal proceeding to close them down, but that's not the immediate fix," Givner said. "More typically they will come in compliance."

Robert Peris, district manager of Community Board 2, in whose district the store lies, said the board had only peripherally examined the issue.

"It hasn't gone to committee or anything else," said Peris. "I dealt with it purely in terms of calls to the office."

Peris said he had received "maybe three" calls from community members.

"We're having an ongoing conversation with the Myrtle Avenue Business Improvement District and we're having an ongoing conversation with Councilmember [Letitia James]."

James said through a spokeswoman that her office was "maintaining vigilance" of the store.

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NOTICE is hereby given that an Order entered by the Court of Kings County on the 18th day of July 2005, bearing the index Number N5200702005, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me rights to Assume the name of: Spinks Alphonse Charles. My present name is: Brian James Edwards. My present address is: 405

Morgan Avenue, #2, Brooklyn, New York 11222. My place of birth is: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. My date of birth is January 4, 1962.

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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

July 23, 2005

'Fierce' campus

Brooklyn College celebrates 75th year with exhibit of memorabilia from celebrities, protests & more

By Eleazer Gorenstein
for The Brooklyn Papers

A silver shovel that Mayor Fiorello La Guardia used to break ground at Brooklyn College's Midwood campus in 1935 now stands erect in the center of the college library, like a statue commemorating the beginning of a celebrated legacy.

The college that the three-term mayor founded with the hope that it would yield keen and curious minds for Brooklyn is now host to a public display of history and precious memorabilia in honor of its 75th anniversary. "A Fierce Determination: 75 Years of Excellence" features more than 200 pieces celebrating the institution's rich tradition, complete with artifacts from notable alumni and events.

"The exhibit is supposed to show how the college has evolved, as well as to highlight the achievements of the college over time," Brooklyn College Archivist Anthony Cucchiara told GO Brooklyn. "Even though the college has changed quite a bit, our goals remain pretty much the same now as they were when the college started. Brooklyn College has always been about providing fine public education to the children of immigrants."

Some of those children have gone on to become well-known figures after their tutelage at Brooklyn College, including acclaimed and controversial defense attorney Alan Dershowitz, authors William Alfred and Irwin Shaw, Nobel Prize winner Stanley Cohen, actor Jimmy Smits and comedian Sam Levinson, who all have artifacts in the exhibit.

"A Fierce Determination" chronicles the history of the college, beginning with a letter in 1926 from the Brooklyn Chamber of Com-

merce calling for the creation of a CUNY branch in Brooklyn. The Board of Higher Education was established that same year, and the plan for Brooklyn College was set in motion.

The original site of the college was in Downtown Brooklyn, and it remained there until 1937, when construction of a permanent home was completed on 40 acres of land in Midwood that had previously been a golf course. La Guardia secured the land and, with President Franklin D. Roosevelt's help, began raising money to fund the new campus. The two men held a groundbreaking ceremony at the Midwood site in October 1935, and the shovel that La Guardia used during the event can be seen at the exhibit.

"A Fierce Determination" also features buttons, fliers, newspapers and pictures created by students and faculty, chronicling the events and overall attitude of the Midwood campus over the years. Memorabilia from the anti-war movements during World War II and the Vietnam War, as well as pictures of riots and protests from the civil rights era represent the personal political involvement and enthusiasm for U.S. isolationism that has been present on the campus almost since its inception, a trend that Cucchiara believes still exists at the college today.

"Students here are very intellectually stimulated and in charge, and have been for a long time," Cucchiara said. "A well-informed citizenry is the basis for sound democracy. Students — a lot of the time — are distracted today. A lot is going on and we want them to know that there is more than iPods and J. Lo out there in the world."

A number of panels in the exhibit display images and information about events like the Brooklyn College Country Fair, which was



From fashion to fairs: (Clockwise from top) Anthony Cucchiara, curator of "A Fierce Determination: 75 Years of Excellence" at Brooklyn College, stands by a display of traditional female campus clothes from the 1930s, '40s and '50s; the Jan. 27, 1971 issue of "The Student Mobilizer"; the shovel used by Fiorello La Guardia at the groundbreaking for the current campus on Oct. 2, 1935; and buttons from Brooklyn College Country Fairs.

started in 1938 by Dean Adele Bilderslee to raise money for the Brooklyn College Graduate Scholarship Fund's cash-starved students. The fair was a significant event for the urban campus — and the neighborhood — and was an annual affair for decades before being discontinued in the late 1980s.

Letters are also on display documenting the 1952 dismissal of Harry Shochower, one of the original professors at the college, due to his refusal to answer Brooklyn College President Harry Gideonse's questions during a "McCarthy-like" inquiry of the faculty can be seen, Cucchiara said. The Western Union telegram from students congratulating Shochower after he was reinstated at the college by the Supreme Court in 1956, is there as well.

The exhibit also features the bell from the USS Brooklyn, a World War II Naval ship that received four battle stars. The bell was obtained by the college's Alpha Phi Omega fraternity, a chapter for World War II veterans who received their education on the GI Bill.

An olive-green robe worn by actor Smits in 1980, his senior year, during a production of "Othello," is encased in glass. Smits, 50, is an Emmy-winning actor who has starred in the television series "L.A. Law," "NYPD Blue" and "The West Wing" as well as in the Public Theater's Shakespeare in the Park productions, on Broadway ("Anna in the Tropics") and George Lucas' latest "Star Wars" installment.

Dershowitz, the attorney and law professor who has been both blessed with great success

and mired in tremendous controversy because of such high-profile clientele as Mike Tyson and O.J. Simpson — and perhaps most famously the overturned conviction of Claus von Bulow, accused of murdering his Newport socialite wife, Sunny, which was depicted in the film "Reversal of Fortune" — is another alum well-represented in the exhibit. Some of Dershowitz's college and professional writing is on display, including one of his books, "Taking Liberties: A Decade of Hard Cases, Bad Laws and Bum Raps."

"If it wasn't for Brooklyn College, Alan Dershowitz would not be a notable figure today," Cucchiara claimed. "A lot of first-generation American children, like him, would have gone into their father's business had they not had the opportunity to go to school in Brooklyn, which was local and cheap. Dershowitz would have been a dry goods store owner, just like his dad."

As pleased as Cucchiara is with all of the objects in the exhibit, there's one that was a particular delight to acquire, he said.

"The La Guardia shovel is a very interesting piece," said Cucchiara. "I had been looking for it for years, ever since I saw it in the video of the groundbreaking ceremony. Then one day, a man named George Goodman called and said he had it. It apparently was given to George's father, who was La Guardia's neighbor, when La Guardia moved into Grace Mansion. It had been in the family ever since, and he decided that it would be better if we had it."

"I'm glad we do."

preneurial prowess, helming Crosby Enterprises, which not only made mousetraps and coffee filters, but also emblazoned his name and visage on the packaging of a La Paul Newman.

Among the members in the candid audience sipping their cocktails and singing along was Crosby's widow, Kathryn, who had traveled from Nevada for this month's cinematic tribute to her husband at the Film Society of Lincoln Center. That retrospective of Crosby's movie career, "What a Swell Party This Is!" continues through July 26 and is co-curated by McQuade.

In addition to performing Crosby's songs and collecting "Crosby" samples of the singer-actor's entre-

See **CROSBY** on page 11

CINEMA

Superwoman

Brooke Ellison, who at age 11 was hit by a car and left paralyzed from the neck down, has defied the odds. Despite her handicap, she graduated with honors from Harvard University in 2000 and her life inspired a film.

A movie based on her life, "The Brooke Ellison Story," directed by the late Christopher Reeve, is being shown at Long Island University's Brooklyn campus in the Library Learning Center, Room 124, on July 24 at 2 p.m. After the film, Ellison (pictured at right with her parents) will give a brief talk and sign copies of her autobiographical book, "Miracles Happen," from 3:30 to 4 p.m.

The free screening is part of the Brooklyn International Disability Film Festival, which features 35 films by and about people with disabilities, and will take place at various locations on the Brooklyn campus through July 24. A free Wellness Expo, with talks geared to the disabled, will take place at the campus from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on July 23.

Long Island University's Brooklyn campus is located at the corner of Flatbush Avenue Extension and DeKalb Avenue in Downtown Brooklyn. For more information about the Brooklyn International Disability Film Festival and Wellness Expo, call Anne Scott, professor of occupational therapy at LIU's Brooklyn Campus, at (718) 780-4507 or visit www.brooklyn.liu.edu/biff/.

—Eleazer Gorenstein

ART

Coney art

On July 24 at 3 p.m., the Coney Island Museum will host an artist's reception for "Philomena Marano (still) Under the Influence."

The exhibit features Marano's cut paper works, from 1981 to the present, that are inspired by the neighborhood's amusements. Among the works on display is 2004's "Wonder Wheel World Swings Low" (below).

The reception is followed by an "Ask the Expert" lecture at 5 p.m., where Marano will discuss her life and work, which includes co-founding the Coney Island Hysterical Society with artist Richard Eagan, in an effort to minimize Coney Island's decline.

The Coney Island Museum is located at 1208 Surf Ave., at 12th Street, second floor. The reception is free and the lecture is \$5. The exhibit will continue through Oct. 9. Museum hours are Monday through Sunday, from noon to 5 p.m., in July and August, and Saturdays and Sundays, from noon to 5 p.m., in September and October. For more information, call (718) 372-5159 or visit www.philo-mania.com.

—Lisa J. Curtis

CINEMA

Nun better



The hills of Prospect Park are going to be alive with Robert Wise's Oscar-winning 1965 film, "The Sound of Music," on July 29 at 7:30 p.m. According to Celebrate Brooklyn's Jack Walsh, the film will be shown in Cinemascope on the band shell's 50-foot-wide, 22-foot-tall screen "as it was meant to be seen."

Watch as Maria (played by Golden Globe-winner Julie Andrews, above) leaves the convent to be governess to the unruly brood of seven children belonging to Capt. Von Trapp (Christopher Plummer). She tames them with, well, the sound of music, just in time to plan their escape from the Germans who are invading Austria on the eve of World War II.

The screening will be preceded by a performance by drummer Kenny Wollesen's marching band SLAM.

The Prospect Park band shell is located at Ninth Street at Prospect Park West in Park Slope. Admission is free but a \$3 donation is suggested. For more information, visit the Web site www.celebratebrooklyn.org or call (718) 655-7892.

—Lisa J. Curtis



Performer Martin McQuade with Kathryn Crosby at the Triad Theatre Tuesday night.

'Christmas' in July

Bay Ridge native and Kathryn Crosby team up to pay tribute to Bing Crosby's career

By Lisa J. Curtis
GO Brooklyn Editor

Watching the microphone-wielding cabaret singer, dressed in a black bow tie and white, double-breasted jacket, at the Triad Theatre in Manhattan

Tuesday night was a blast from the past, indeed. Bay Ridge native Martin McQuade sang Bing Crosby songs from the 1930s, '40s and '50s, and even showed off the crooner's merchandise from that time period: a vintage mousetrap and ice cream box.

The theme of his unorthodox set, accompanied by Dave Gross on piano, was celebrating the work of the legendary Crosby. While the overwhelmingly positive songs were from Crosby's numerous films, the household items were examples of the singer-actor's entre-

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BROOKLYN

Neighborhood Dining Guide

This week: CLINTON HILL

Bodegas

860 Fulton St. at Clinton Avenue, (718) 230-3729 (Cash only) Entrees: \$8-\$16.
Owner Christian Denney says his menu "reflects the neighborhood," adding that it is a "migrational restaurant, very regional." Denney, who also owns Liquors, in Fort Greene, says he serves "anything from steak and eggs to cuscus and lamb."

Since January 2004, Bodegas has been serving a wide variety of entrees, which change seasonally. They have included pan-seared Atlantic salmon with cucumber oil, a roasted potato puree; grilled shrimp pasta with mushroom papardelle and pistou (a mixture of basil, garlic and olive oil); beef burger with tomato, cheddar cheese, homemade sauce and a side of french fries; and "big roast fish and chips," which features the catch of the day prepared with tomato provencal and roasted red bliss potatoes. The dessert menu has everything from cakes and bread pudding to molten chocolate cake and coconut flan, all made by their in-house pastry chef. In addition to the à la carte dinner menu, Bodegas offers a \$19 five-course menu, from 5 pm to 7 pm. Open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Monday through Friday, from 8 am to 11 pm, and Saturday and Sunday, from 9 am to midnight.

Castro's

511 Myrtle Ave. at Grand Avenue, (718) 398-1459 (Cash only) Entrees: \$8-\$12.

The smell of grilled meats and beans greets customers at Castro's. "Customers love our mole poblano because the sauce is homemade," boasts owner Humberto Castro. Chef Lorenzo Lelba combines various peppers, toasted sesame seeds, garlic, chocolate, cheese and cinnamon to make this typical Mexican dish. Vegetarians can try the burrito with broccoli, cauliflower, carrots, zucchini, jack cheese, rice, beans, lettuce, tomatoes, onions, sour cream and guacamole. (Pico de Gallo is served on the side.) All entrees come with chips and salsa and a side of rice and beans.

In warmer months, enjoy a meal in the backyard patio. Castro's also offers an array of breakfast burritos and morning specialties. Delivery and takeout available. Open daily from 8 am to midnight.

Graziella's

232 Vanderbilt Ave. between DeKalb and Willoughby avenues, (718) 789-5663 (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$13-\$20.

In May, Louis Devisio and Vito Randazzo opened their doors to Italian food lovers in Clinton Hill. In addition to friendly servers, a blazing fire from an authentic wood-burning brick oven greets customers in the dining room, where Antonio Iannelli bakes all kinds of pizza. One of his specialties is the "pescadore pizza," covered with various types of seafood in marinara sauce. The menu includes classic Italian dishes such as spaghetti with fresh mozzarella. One of head chef Nicolo' Roberti's specialties is the seafood risotto. From May through September, take advantage of the rooftop dining with a view of the Manhattan skyline. Open Tuesday through Sunday, for lunch and dinner. Closed Mondays.

Karrot

431 Myrtle Ave. at Clinton Avenue, (718) 522-0753 (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa) Smoothies: \$2.75-\$4.75.

The best smoothie in Brooklyn can be found at Karrot, owner Carlos Aguilu says of his hip health food store. He offers two types of organic smoothies: the Jubilee with blackberries, strawberries, blueberries, bananas, soy milk and mango juice (\$3.75) and the Omega with almonds, bananas, soy protein and almond milk (\$4.75) — "and lots of love," adds Aguilu.

On Karrot's shelves are international teas, fresh organic dairy products and eggs, wheat-free and dairy-free products, and natural beauty supplies. The store, which opened in November 2002, even stocks natural pet foods. "We've got lots of quick cuisine stuff, lots of low-carb breads and boxed goods for the low-carb crowd, cereals, you name it," Aguilu adds.

Aguilu was named a "Business Pioneer" at the 2005 NYC Neighborhood Achievement Awards at Gracie Mansion on July 11 and was credited with catalyzing new commercial activity on Myrtle Avenue by Small Business Services Commissioner Robert Walsh.

Aguilu's natural food mission has three additional locations: at 283 Grand Ave., 854 W. 111th St. in the Bronx, and 304 W. 17th St. in Harlem — stocks products from small producers, some of which are exclusive to the store. Aguilu says his inventory is priced 10 to 15 percent lower than most Manhattan and

★ = Full review available at

BrooklynPapers.com

Abbreviation Key: AmEx=American Express, Disc=Diner's Club, Disc=Discover Card, MC=MasterCard, Visa=Visa Card

Chocolate black and white mousse cake and German chocolate cake are also available. Stop by for a poetry night on the third Friday of the month, between 7 pm and 9 pm. Peaches & Cream also caters children's parties. Open from noon to 9 pm, Sunday through Thursday, and from 10 am to 10 pm, Friday and Saturday.

Sapolo

501 Myrtle Ave. at Ryerson Street, (718) 789-7788 (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$6-\$10.

At William Soto's Sapolo restaurant, sample Chinese and Spanish food ranging from lobster chow mein to "carne de res con pimiento" (green pepper steak). Here you'll find the traditional fare of both cultures. Chinese classics include General Tso's chicken, spicy scallops in garlic sauce, and ham egg foo young. Or go for Spanish dishes such as the "chicharrones con pollo en huso" (fried chicken cracklings), "chufita frías" (fried pork chops) or paella. The daily lunch special (for \$4.95-\$6.15 depending on choice of meat) is served with your choice of egg drop, wonton or sweet and sour soup, as well as white or chicken-fried rice. Open Monday through Saturday for lunch and dinner, and for dinner only on Sundays. Delivery is cash only.

Sushi Okado

497 Myrtle Ave. at Hall Street, (718) 789-1373 (MC, Visa) Entrees: \$9-\$16.

It's always sushi time at this Japanese and Korean restaurant. Just look at the clock in the dining room — it tells time in sushi! And although the small restaurant, decorated in various shades of blue, is located on the second floor of a two-story building, outside, the enormous sign bearing its name is hard to miss. Owner Yumiko Kang customized the menu so it appeals to both native Korean and Japanese, as well as American customers. The most popular dish among Pratt students of Korean descent, according to Kang, is the "Bibimbab," a mildly spicy combination of rice, vegetables, eggs and your choice of meat or bean curd. Here's the fun part: the sides are served in separate compartments and you get to mix them yourself.

On the Japanese side of the menu, the dragon roll, made with eel and crab and adorned with artfully sliced pieces of avocado, wins in popularity. Lunch specials are served Monday through Friday, from 11:30 am to 3 pm. Open daily for lunch and dinner.

Thai 101

454 Myrtle Ave. between Washington and Waverly avenues, (718) 855-4615 (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$4.95-\$14.95.

The effect of the orange art deco walls reflecting off Thai 101's crisp, white-washed brick walls, gives it a modern and airy feel. Thai 101 favorites include deep-fried duck or fish served with special house sauce, mixed vegetables and pineapple. Also popular is the pad Thai because customers have the option of eating it with beef or chicken or vermicelli with vegetables or shrimp. Check for the weekly seafood crab special with either panang curry, peanut or garlic sauce. Owner Samual George recommends the RFI (Fried Banana Ice Cream) or the pumpkin custard. Lunch specials served daily for \$4.95. Open Monday through Saturday for lunch and dinner. Delivery is cash only.

Two Steps Down

240 DeKalb Ave. at Vanderbilt Avenue, (718) 392-2020 (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$12.95-\$29.95.

Opened 33 years ago, owner Yvette Mayo's exquisite seafood restaurant may very well be why other fine restaurants have flocked to Fort Greene. This cozy, bi-level eatery can seat up to 75, between the ground floor and the upstairs. And you'll find exposed brick walls adorned with lots of artwork — the colors of berries and grapes contrasting with white tablecloths. And the food!

Their Louisiana gumbo contains mussels, clams, shrimp, scallops and oysters. The base is roux, and then corn and dice are added. The gumbo is served with yellow rice and a garden salad. The blackened medley is spiced and seared salmon, catfish and tuna, topped with a black bean and corn salsa. Sweet endings include sweet potato cake with cinnamon glaze, and bread pudding with rum sauce.

Zaytoons

427 Myrtle Ave. at Washington Avenue, (718) 623-5552 (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$4.50-\$13.50.

According to Zagat, co-founders and chefs Ahmad Samad and Farid Akad, serve the best Middle-Eastern food in New York City. Tapestries and antique lamps adorn exposed brick and warm, red walls, while brightly patterned fabric covers comfy benches, couches and chairs. The chicken "shawarma," lemon-marinated chicken from the rotisserie served with rice and salad and a choice of hummus or babaganoush, has been a customer favorite since the restaurant opened in late 2002. Another favorite among customers is Zaytoons' variety of "pizzas," a combination of pizza and pita. (All of Zaytoons' pizza is made fresh to order.) Try the "shamoun pizza," covered in lamb, beef, onions, tomatoes, parsley and spices. A belly dancer performs two shows every other Friday. (Reservations are recommended on those nights.) Open daily for lunch and dinner.

Editor's note: These are a sampling of restaurants in the neighborhood. The list rotates, and it is not comprehensive. For more restaurants, go to www.brooklynpapers.com on the Web. If your restaurant is not listed and you would like it to be, please contact Editor Christine Edrington via e-mail at CurtsEdrington@brooklynpapers.com.

Room with a view

101 Restaurant celebrates 14 years of offering comfort food and great sights

By Tina Barry
For The Brooklyn Papers

What is a neighborhood restaurant? It depends on the neighborhood. In Park Slope, bistros abound; ditto for Smith Street in Boerum Hill. In Bay Ridge, locals have flocked to 101 Restaurant & Bar since its opening, 14 years ago.

Sitting on the corner of 101st Street and Fourth Avenue, the restaurant looks like a cross between the kind of big, loft-like cafe you'd find in SoHo, circa 1985, coupled with a sports bar.

Sound like an unfortunate pairing? At 101, the opposites work in a surprisingly successful way.

On a hot night, the floor-to-ceiling windows slide open offering pedestrians a view of the crowd at the bar and dining room, and the diners inside a perfect perch for people-watching. The ceilings are high, and the tables well spaced. Looking just beyond the outdoor tables that ring the restaurant, there's a show-stopping view of the Verazano-Narrows Bridge, its lights twinkling in the distance.

Beside the dining room, there's a bar scene that can get loud as the night progresses. Two huge television screens perched on either side of the dining room, remind the crowd that 101 is a casual eatery that isn't trying too hard to be chic.

The menu, too, aims to please customers who appreciated well-prepared Italian dishes with just a few trendy touches of variety. So, on the appetizer list, you'll find spring rolls with a sweet chili sauce next to fried calamari for two; and on the entree roundup, you'll find traditional favorites like chicken with sausage and sweet peppers, and

Chickens-a-bax with an "Oriental ginger sauce."

Chef Keyes Accardo's menu doesn't get too adventurous because that's a good thing, because when he stays in Italy, his flavors are balanced and lively. Head east though, and trouble lurks.

Core slices of warm Italian bread from the basket on the table to mop up the pasta's rich, sun-dried tomato cream sauce. You also admired the penne topped with big sautéed shrimp. The pasta is crisped after cooking in hot olive oil, so it becomes pleasantly browned and chewy.



The Brooklyn Papers/Tina Barry

Slivers of fresh cilantro and sundried tomato add a herbaceous, earthy note, and a squeeze of fresh lemon gives a tart zing to the ingredients.

I doubt you'll find a plate of more appealing pork chops than the one served at 101. Two thick, juicy chops with a thin, crusty breading are ringed in a balsamic vinegar sauce that sprates and sizzles.

The sauce is tart without overpowering the pork, and the peppers give a jolt of heat. Perfect creamy mashed potatoes and sautéed spinach complete the dish. It's an old-fashioned meat-and-potatoes affair that is comfortably familiar but not less than bit dull.

The Chilean sea bass with sautéed escarole and cannellini beans wasn't dull either, but wouldn't order it again. Alone, the trio would have worked just fine. The fish was moist; the escarole was just bitter enough to

enhance the sweetness of the fish and the beans were tender. But no one tasted the dish's cloysingly sweet "ginger Oriental sauce" before it emerged from the kitchen. If they had, they'd have realized that it belonged over ice cream, not the entree.

There's chocolate ice cream over flourless chocolate cake on the dessert menu, and a few other crowd-pleasing, but not exciting, sweets like cheesecake and apple crisp. And, it's hard to take a dessert roundout seriously, if it includes chocolate mousse mixed with chunks of Oreo cookies. The tiramisu though, was exceptionally light and dosed with enough espresso to ensure a sleepless night.

101 Restaurant & Bar may not be the kind of place I think of as a neighborhood hangout — that honor is reserved for down-at-the-heels dives that serve burgers.

But, I have to love a place where huge, custom-crafted beers are parked just outside the restaurant — next to the valet parking sign, and blondes dripping in gold jewelry and black Hunk Hogan look-alikes. Especially when the men finish their pasta, climb atop those bikes and roar away into the night.

DINING

101 Restaurant & Bar (Fourth Avenue at 101st Street in Bay Ridge) accepts American Express, MasterCard and Visa. Entrees: \$18-\$36. The restaurant serves lunch and dinner seven days a week. For reservations call (718) 853-5113.

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Power to the pie

Albano Ballerini, one of the pioneers of Vanderbilt Avenue's new culinary renaissance, has opened a second outpost, Amorina Cucina Rustica, across the avenue from his first idiosyncratic cafe, Aliso Osteria del Borgo.

The new place, done up in "Ballerini eclectic" (as described by the owner), is a boutique-style pie place and more.

Ballerini, who opened his venture in March, says "our fantastic pies are Roman style — thin crust with five different toppings daily." Slivers of the fantastic pie, created by pizza chef Ruth Kaplan (pictured at left), an Aliso patron and enthusiastic home cook, might include artichokes and mozzarella; sun-dried tomatoes, pesto and salami; or mushrooms, sweet

Every other week, Kaplan introduces a new "Will to live" pie like the "Pizzalla Alla Norma" — eggplant, ricotta salata, cherry tomatoes and fresh basil or the "Carbonara" with bacon, pun-

san and a raw egg topping. Eat your pie (slices and family-sized at lunch; individual sizes at dinner) or indulge in an entree of eggplant parmesan, baked ziti, lasagna or rigatoni with olives and rosemary in the funky dining room where balls Ballerini's style stamp — vintage wallpaper, tables covered in checkered cloths and enough chandeliers to open a small showroom. (Ballerini says there are 12 different styles of chandeliers dating from the '50s to the '70s.) He's even hung yellowing receipts on the walls from his family's cafe in the Marche region of Italy that date back to the '40s.

Amorina Cucina Rustica (624 Vanderbilt Ave. at Prospect Heights) accepts cash only. The restaurant serves lunch and dinner Tuesday through Friday. Entrees: \$10-\$13. For more information, call (718) 230-3030.

— Tina Barry

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RESTAURANT LOUNGE

One hot 'Summer'

The Sackett Group shines in 'Suddenly Last Summer'

By Paulanne Simmons
for The Brooklyn Papers

"We all use each other and that's what we think of as love," says Catherine Holly in Tennessee Williams' "Suddenly Last Summer." The Sackett Group's inaugural show at the Brooklyn Music School Playhouse.

Indeed there's a lot of using in this play, but not too much love.

First produced in 1959 as "Garden District" (a section of New Orleans), a double-bill that also featured Williams' short play "Something Unspoken."

"Suddenly Last Summer" is a mature work that came after many masterpieces — "The Glass Menagerie" (1944), "A Streetcar Named Desire" (1947), "Summer and Smoke" (1948), "The Rose Tattoo" (1951) and "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" (1955). So, there are in "Suddenly Last Summer," all of Williams' usual culprits — the overpowering older woman, the vulnerable, sexually repressed young lady, the boorish relative.

But in this production, directed by Robert J. Weinstein, the most important character, Sebastian, the effete son of the rich widow Mrs. Venable (Dorothy Stansley), never appears on stage (except as a wire sculpture of the martyred St. Sebastian). He has died in Europe months before under traumatic

circumstances only known to his traveling companion, his distressed and distraught cousin, Catherine Holly (Ellen Lindsay).

Mrs. Venable goes to great lengths to keep those circumstances hidden, even confining Catherine to a mental institution and calling in a doctor whom she attempts to bribe into performing a lobotomy on her niece. Catherine's plight is complicated by her avuncular mother (Diane Lynne Drew) and boorish brother, George (David Sochet), who want her to keep her mouth shut so Sebastian's will can be executed without a hitch and the Hollis can receive their inheritance.

"Suddenly Last Summer" unfolds much like a mystery (without the clues) as the truth is slowly uncovered.

In the 1959 movie, there are two vital roles played by Katherine Hepburn (who, ironically, so disliked the light in which director Joseph L.



Mourning becomes her: In the Sackett Group's production of "Suddenly Last Summer," by Tennessee Williams, Dorothy Stansley plays Mrs. Venable and Matthew Healy is Dr. Cukrowitz.

Mankiewicz had cast her that she refused to see the final cut) and Elizabeth Taylor, both of whom were nominated for Academy Awards. If Weinstein has not been able to resurrect Hepburn and convince Taylor to somehow shed 40-45 years and come to Brooklyn, he has certainly found two actresses who do a superb job in recreating these plump roles.

Stansley has a malicious, haughty grace that makes her performance powerful and convincing. And Lindsay is in total control as she skillfully contrasts fragility with plunk.

It would be criminal to discuss this production without mentioning the way set designer John Scheffler has created a lush garden whose vegetation seems to overwhelm and threaten, or lighting designer Michael Hairston, whose use of color and varying intensity is a perfect complement to the set.

Undertaking Williams' work is cer-

tainly a challenge at a time when sound bites and flashing images dominate the media. This is especially so for community theater with its limited resources.

In the first place, the nature of his plays demands accomplished actors; Williams' plots often center on an action that took place long before the actual time of the play, which focuses on solving interpersonal conflicts. And his dialogue, although lyrical and highly emotional, is also lengthy and sometimes tedious.

Weinstein has definitely been blessed with the first. Hopefully this run will prove that he has also been favored with the latter.

CROSBY...

Continued from page 9

anna," McQuade, 52, is Mrs. Crosby's special events coordinator and her public relations manager when she's in New York, he told GO Brooklyn. The surprising partnership between the owner of the now-defunct Flotsam and Jetsam memorabilia store in Bay Ridge and the former Hollywood actress, who was married to Crosby for 20 years, was sparked by their meeting at Hofstra University in 2001. The school was presenting a symposium in honor of the centennial of Crosby's birth, and it was here that McQuade "gathered his courage" and offered to give Mrs. Crosby a tour of an exhibit he curated about Bing.

Now the duo routinely pair up in Brooklyn for tributes to Crosby's work, whether at the Fort Hamilton Army Base in honor of Crosby's contributions to the U.S.O. or at bookstores where Mrs. Crosby, 72, signs copies of her books, "My Life with Bing," "My First Years with Bing," and "My Last Years with Bing."

Their shared mission is keeping Crosby's legacy alive. Like a minister's wife — albeit a svelte, glamorous one decked out in sparkling jewels — Mrs. Crosby patiently and graciously greeted the swarm of Bing's fans and former colleagues that approached her



Accentuate the positive: As part of the "What a Swell Party This Is!" retrospective of films starring Bing Crosby, "High Tor" (featuring Julie Andrews with Crosby) will be screened on July 24.

before and after McQuade's concert.

As McQuade is quick to point out, Crosby was a star on the big screen as well as on ra-

dio and on television during his career, which spanned 1930 to 1966. According to McQuade, who describes himself as being "bonkers over

him," Crosby introduced 14 Oscar-nominated songs and four Oscar-winners and was the first musical star to win a Best Actor Academy Award (for Leo McCarey's 1944 film "Going My Way"). His recording of "White Christmas" remains, after 65 years, the best-selling record of all time, said McQuade, with 50 million copies sold. Despite these awards and accomplishments, McQuade said there has never been a retrospective of his films, and he likened Crosby's disappearance from popular culture to an eclipse.

"[McQuade] has tremendous knowledge about Bing Crosby's career," said the Film Society of Lincoln Center's Joanna Ney, who collaborated with McQuade on the film series. "He's devoted himself to Bing Crosby. He's a Crosby historian and he, along with Mrs. Kathryn Crosby, brought to light that nothing had been done for Bing, this extraordinary talent."

Mrs. Crosby, who's played opposite Tony Curtis and Jack Lemmon in the course of her own movie career, will introduce "High Tor," on July 24 at the Film Society retrospective. Directed by James Nielsen, the 1956 film is considered the first made-for-TV movie. Crosby had intended to release

MUSIC

Martin McQuade will perform songs made famous by Bing Crosby at the Greenhouse Cafe (773 Third Ave. at 77th Street in Bay Ridge) on July 27 at 8 p.m. For more information, call 718-852-8220.

"What a Swell Party This Is! A Salute to Bing Crosby" continues at the Film Society of Lincoln Center's Walter Reade Theater (165 West 65th Street on the plaza level in Manhattan) through July 26. For program information, visit www.filmisoc.com or call 612-875-5600. Tickets are \$10.

her screen debut as the phantom (prior to her Broadway stardom in "My Fair Lady"). The movie was only broadcast once on TV, and has never been seen as the Film Society will screen it — uncut and without commercials. It was a real coup when Mrs. Crosby found the archival print on "a shelf in the basement after 50 years," she told GO Brooklyn.

Among the upcoming films in the series, which began on Wednesday, are "High Society" (1956), "Blue Skies" (1946), "Robin and the Seven Hoods" (1964), a new print of "High Time" (1960) and "Going My Way." McQuade, whose father was a film projectionist and ignited his Bing "fascination and obsession" by buying the crooner's albums for him, will be introducing many of the films.

"[Crosby] had a unique personality, and people watching or listening to him felt as though they knew him," said McQuade, explaining Bing's enormous popularity. "He comforted them through the Depression and World War II." The Bing devotee can go on for hours about Crosby's accomplishments, and it's not likely that his Bing tributes will come to an end anytime soon. In fact, he's planning to perform another musical homage on July 27 at the Greenhouse Cafe in Bay Ridge and says plans are in the works for a Bing retrospective at the Museum of Television and Radio.

"[Crosby's] approach to singing is devoid of artifice. It's very honest and sincere," said McQuade. "Dean Martin says 'He died when he said, 'A song's best friend is Bing Crosby.' Bing had tremendous talent and technique but it was always in service to the song."

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Trilok Fusion: July 23, Sat at 5pm

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Independence Community Bank Series
KASEY CHAMBERS / THE GREENCARDS
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SUN • 8/7 • 7:30
MUSIC & MOVIES Series
TARZAN THE APE MAN
with MO'NIE O'NEAL WORKER JOAN AS POLICEWOMAN
1932 classic with the star who made rock superstars

FRI • 8/5 • 7:30PM
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Where

Compiled by Susan Rosenthal

SAT, JULY 23

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

GREENMARKET: BAM Local Development Corporation hosts its third annual Greenmarket in Fort Greene Park (DeKalb Avenue at Ashland Place). 6 a.m. until park closes. (914) 923-4837.

BIRDING: Urban Park Rangers host a birding walk around the park marsh. Bring binoculars. 8 a.m. Salt Marsh Nature Center (Jadwin) 718-718-421-0201. Free.

NATURE WALK: Urban Park Rangers take a walk through Fort Greene Park. Learn about ecology, park history, geology and birds. North Street and Myrtle Avenue at North Portland Avenue. (718) 421-0201. Free.

LUNCH AND LAUNCH: Pedal boat around Prospect Park lake. Rent a boat between 2 and 2 p.m. and receive a 25 percent discount coupon for food. \$15 per hour, plus a \$10 refundable deposit. (718) 287-8450.

KAYAK FOR A CAUSE: 12.4 mile expedition across Long Island Sound to support The Make A Wish Foundation. Beach party to launch and catch and lobster bake follows crossing at Cal Pasture Beach. Non-paddlers welcome. Time: All day. www.kayakforacause.com (718) 243-0849.

ART, BEER & MORE: New York Like a Native hosts a tour of 28th Street. Visit several galleries and end at the Brooklyn Brewery. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Meet in front of the Williamsburg Art and Historical Center. Broadway and Bedford. (718) 393-7537.

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS WALK: Mauricio Lorence, a specialist on NYC history and landmarks, leads a tour of Fort Greene, Clinton and Brooklyn Heights. \$25. 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Meet at 332 Adams St. (718) 789-0430.

Cemetery at Twilight: Big Onion Walking Tours hosts a twilight walk around Green-Wood Cemetery. \$15. \$12 seniors, \$10 students and members. 5 p.m. Meet at 47th Avenue and 52nd Street. (212) 439-1090.

PERFORMANCE

CIRCUS: Cole Bros. Circus presents "Super Heroes of the Circus." \$15. \$10 children ages 12 and younger and seniors. 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Marine Park, Avenue U, West of Flatbush Avenue. (800) 796-0272.

IMPACT THEATRE: presents "The Institution," a comedy by Gerard Zepes. \$15. 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. 190 Underhill Ave. (718) 390-7163.

OUTSIDE ARTS: BAM Cultural District hosts its second annual Outside Art Festival. "Trick Fanny," a classical Indian dance with children in traditional costumes at 5 p.m. "Sleepless Somnambulism," 8 p.m. BAM Park, intersection of Lafayette Avenue and 52nd Street. (718) 464-2200. www.whatschasingyou.com/outsideart.

BARGEMUSE: Classical music concert features a program of Mozart, Hummel and Beethoven. \$35. 7:30

p.m. Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 424-2083.

CELEBRATE BROOKLYN: Summer performing arts festival hosts the Buckner Local Ensemble with Eddie Palmeri and La Perfecta 11. \$3 suggested donation. 7:30 p.m. Prospect Park band shell, Ninth Street and Prospect Park West. (718) 655-7682.

MUSICAL: Performing Arts Society of Kingsborough Community College presents its first summer repertory season with "Dance Tunes." \$15. 8 p.m. 2001 Oriental Blvd. (718) 468-4809.

PLAY: The Great Group presents its premiere season as the resident company at the Brooklyn Museum School Playhouse. Production is Tennessee Williams' "Suddenly Last Summer." \$19. 8 p.m. 126 St. Felix St. (212) 868-4444.

CHILDREN

PUPPETWORK: Around the World in 80 Days. \$8. 57 children. 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. 338 40th Ave. Reservations suggested. (718) 656-3391.

TRANSIT MUSEUM: Hands-on for kids, ages 4 to 16, on designing plaques. Learn how to work with ceramics. \$5. 11 children to 19. Boerum and Schermerhorn Street. (718) 694-1873.

ARTY FACTS: Brooklyn Museum invites kids to "Stories Art" series. 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. 125 Montague St. (718) 623-6564.

EARTH ART STOP: Brooklyn Waterfront Art Center hosts a tour of the waterfront featuring the intrigue in the natural world. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. 499 Van Brunt St. (718) 595-2507. Free.

BATTLE FOR BROOKLYN: NY Arm Wrestling Association hosts its 23rd annual White Castle Golden Arm Championship. \$15. Kids under 18 are start-time at 12:30 p.m. 300 74th Street. (212) 439-1090.

OTHER

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sign copies of his book "Brooklyn Remembered: The 1953 Days of the Dodgers." 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Surf Avenue and West 17th Street. (718) 507-100X.

RECEPTION: DUMBO Arts Center presents an art exhibit: "Nimbi and Penumbra." 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. 300 Washington St. Surf Avenue at 10th Street. (718) 655-7682.

OPEN MIC: At Vox Pop. Open to all artists. 7:30 p.m. 1022 Cortelyou Road. (718) 940-2084. Free.

FILM FEST: International Disability Film Festival at Long Island University. Brooklyn campus. \$10. \$5 students. Call for program details. (718) 937-1000.

MARTIAL ARTS: See martial arts in action during a festival. Martial artists and masters perform. Also, vendors selling martial arts-related merchandise. White Wave Dance. 25. 4 p.m. Call for time. (646) 330-4844.

DANCE PARTY: A fundraiser for "SUV" the Musical. By Park Slope. 7:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. 100 7th Avenue. (718) 623-6564.

TOUR: Around the World in 80 Days. \$8. 57 children. 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. 338 40th Ave. Reservations suggested. (718) 656-3391.

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Johnny Depp portrays gonzo journalist Hunter S. Thompson in "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas," which screens at BAMcinematek on July 23.

TWINS: Dan and Michael Day. A 20-minute animated film. 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. 6821 R. Hamilton Avenue. (718) 694-1873.

BAMcinematek: presents "Afternoon Delirium." 1992. \$10. \$7 students. 2 p.m. 430 p.m. 650 p.m. 135 p.m. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

CONCERT: 23rd annual Free Music Festival. 7:30 p.m. 100 7th Avenue. (718) 623-6564.

MARTIAL ARTS: See martial arts in action during a festival. Martial artists and masters perform. Also, vendors selling martial arts-related merchandise. White Wave Dance. 25. 4 p.m. Call for time. (646) 330-4844.

DANCE PARTY: A fundraiser for "SUV" the Musical. By Park Slope. 7:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. 100 7th Avenue. (718) 623-6564.

TOUR: Around the World in 80 Days. \$8. 57 children. 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. 338 40th Ave. Reservations suggested. (718) 656-3391.

TRANSIT MUSEUM: Hands-on for kids, ages 4 to 16, on designing plaques. Learn how to work with ceramics. \$5. 11 children to 19. Boerum and Schermerhorn Street. (718) 694-1873.

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BATTLE FOR BROOKLYN: NY Arm Wrestling Association hosts its 23rd annual White Castle Golden Arm Championship. \$15. Kids under 18 are start-time at 12:30 p.m. 300 74th Street. (212) 439-1090.

OTHER

FASHION MARKET: Brooklyn Design District showcases emerging designers of handcrafted merchandise. 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. 157 Montague St. (718) 623-6564.

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11:30 a.m. Leaf Erikson Park, 67th Street and Fifth Avenue. (718) 567-9620. Free.

MEDITATION WORKSHOP: Learn ashvaja pose. 6:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. Brooklyn Public Library, Carroll Gardens branch. 396 Clinton St. (718) 833-5751. Free.

LATE NIGHT: Late Show! presents Nerissa Campbell. 10:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. 402 Seventh Ave. (718) 399-7776.

READING: Lisa Selin Davis reads from her debut novel, "Rally." Book visit several galleries and end at the Brooklyn Brewery. \$16. 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Meet in front of the Williamsburg Art and Historical Center. Broadway at Bedford. (718) 393-7537.

DANCE: Young Dancers in Repertory offers a free dance class for children ages 4 to 14. 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Sunset Park, 44th Street and South Avenue. (718) 567-9620. Free.

R&B CONCERT: Motowneet: Children hosts a summer music series. Today: Sharon Jones, "Queen of Funk." Noon to 2 p.m. 200 7th Avenue. (718) 623-6564.

TRANSIT MUSEUM: Hands-on for kids, ages 4 to 16, on designing plaques. Learn how to work with ceramics. \$5. 11 children to 19. Boerum and Schermerhorn Street. (718) 694-1873.

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Where to GO...

Continued from page 12...

admission, \$10 box seats, 7 pm. Surf Avenue and West 17th Street. (718) 507-1100.

CELEBRATE BROOKLYN: Summer performing arts festival presents a music and movie series with "The Sound of Music."

Music by SLAM precedes movie. \$3 suggested donation. 7:30 pm. Prospect Park band shell, Ninth Street and Prospect Park West. (718) 855-7882.

BARQUEMUSIC: Classical music concert features a program of Bach, Beethoven and Mussorgsky. \$35. 7:30 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 624-2083.

SUNSET MUSIC SERIES: Waterfront Museum and Showboat Barge hosts The Fourth Street Night Owls at 8 pm; Mingo and the Inner City Blues Band at 9 pm. \$10, \$6 kids 12 and younger. Conover Street at the water in Red Hook. (877) 238-5594.

MOVIES ON A ROOF: Rooftop Films presents "Tape Freak." Other films. \$8, 8:30 pm live music; 9 pm film. Rooftop, Automotive High School, 50 Bedford Ave. (877) 786-1912.

PLAY: "Suddenly Last Summer." 8 pm. See Sat., July 30.

IMPACT THEATER: "The Institution." 8 pm. See Sat., July 30.

SAT, JULY 30

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

BIRDWATCHING CRUISE: Guided tour aboard the electric boat Independence. Learn about flora and fauna in Prospect Park's lake. \$10, \$6 kids. Noon to 12:45 pm. Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue. (718) 287-3400.

PARK SLOPE TOUR: offered by Big Onion Walking Tours. \$15, \$12 seniors, \$10 students and members. 1 pm. Meet at southeast corner of Plaza Street West and Flatbush Avenue. (212) 439-1090.

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CELEBRATE BROOKLYN: Summer performing arts festival presents Morgan Heritage and Don Minott and The High Voltage Band. \$3 suggested donation. 7:30 pm. Prospect Park band shell, Ninth Street and Prospect Park West. (718) 855-7882.

PLAY: The Sackett Group presents its premiere season as the resident company at the Brooklyn Music School Playhouse. Production is Tennessee Williams' "Suddenly Last Summer." \$19, 8 pm. 126 St. Felix St. (212) 868-4444.

IMPACT THEATER: presents "The Institution," a comedy by Gerald Zipper. \$15. 3 pm, 190 Underhill Ave. (718) 390-7163.

ART, BEER & MORE: New York Like a Native hosts a tour of Williamsburg. Visit several galleries and end at the Brooklyn Brewery. \$16, 1:30 pm to 4 pm. Meet in front of the Williamsburg Art and Historical Center,

Brooklyn at Bedford. (718) 393-7537.

CHILDREN

BARNES & NOBLE: Storytime: Favorite Picture Books. 11 am. 156 Court St. (718) 246-4996. Free.

CAROUSEL RIDE: Historic 1912 Carousel. \$1 per ride. Noon to 6 pm. Near Flatbush and Ocean avenues. www.prospectpark.org.

PUPPETWORKS: presents "Around the World in 80 Days." \$8, \$7 children. 12:30 pm and 2:30 pm. 338 Sixth Ave. Reservations suggested. (718) 965-3391.

MUSIC & MORE: Children's performance. "Gustaf Yellow-gold's Wide Wild World," featuring music, animated illustrations and song. Admission by donation. 2 pm. Community Bookstore, 143 Seventh Ave. (718) 783-3075.

OTHER

EARTH ART SHOW: Brooklyn Waterfront Artists Coalition hosts a show at Red Hook Pier. 1 pm to 6 pm. 499 Van Brunt St. (718) 596-2507. Free.

PLAY BALL: Brooklyn Cyclones play against Hudson Valley. \$5 general admission, \$10 box seats. 6 pm. Surf Avenue and West 17th Street. (718) 507-1100.

SUN, JULY 31

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

COMMUNITY MARKET: Park Slope Farmers Market. Farmers and specialty food producers bring their wares including produce, pickles, breads, pastry, wine and meats. 11 am to 5 pm. JJ Byrne Park, Fifth Avenue between Third and Fourth streets. (914) 923-4837.

PERFORMANCE

BARQUEMUSIC: Classical music concert features a program of Mozart, Rachmaninoff and Schumann. \$35. 4 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 624-2083.

CELEBRATE BROOKLYN: Summer performing arts festival presents the African Festival with Papa Wemba, Goli-Bi System, Maria De Barros, Kokoandé and Nkossi Konda. \$3 suggested donation. 2 pm to 9 pm. Prospect Park band shell, Ninth Street and Prospect Park West. (718) 855-7882.

GOSPEL MUSIC: Micah Stampley and his wife Heidi sing. Powerful Praise Tabernacle, 708 Myrtle Ave. between Spencer and Walworth streets. Call for time. (718) 422-1170. Free.

IMPACT THEATER: "The Institution." 3 pm. See Sat., July 30.

PLAY: "Suddenly Last Summer." 5 pm. See Sat., July 30.

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UNMOVE...

Continued from page 1

1 million square feet of temporary office space to six locations in Manhattan and Brooklyn.

Burnham has said that the absolute deadline for signing a lease for the temporary space, which is being called swing space, is fall 2006. The space would need to accommodate its Secretariat staff of nearly 3,000 and General Assembly meetings within a hall big enough to seat 1,800.

Calls to Burnham's office seeking comment for this article were not returned by press time, but several sources confirmed the interest shown by the U.N.

"If, in a sort of post-9-11 security environment, the U.N. were to decentralize some of its functions and spread them around the city, [Burnham] indicated that Downtown Brooklyn could be an appropriate site for the permanent location for a support function of the U.N.," said Adams.

"Obviously, that is far more lasting than the temporary swing space," he said.

Interest by the U.N. could help spur new development in Downtown Brooklyn, which passed a major rezoning initiative last year but has yet to result in a spate of new growth.

On May 10, The Brooklyn Papers reported that Secretary-General Kofi Annan said the U.N. may have found commercial space in Downtown Brooklyn that could serve its Secretariat and General Assembly needs.

The Brooklyn site being looked at, which Annan would not identify, would cost the U.N. between \$211 million and \$220 million for the offices and conference hall, much less than a Midtown Manhattan location estimated to cost between \$221 million and \$230 million, plus another \$45 million for conference space, according to his May 10 report.

The Downtown Brooklyn Plan, signed into law last August, was created, according to its advocates, to encourage the development of 6 million square feet of office space by allowing high-rises up to 400 feet in some zones, in order to attract businesses that are considering moving their back-office space to New Jersey and elsewhere outside the city.

Joseph Sitt, a developer whose Thor Equities company owns both an above-ground parking lot along Flatbush Avenue Extension at Willoughby Street and the adjoining Gallery at Fulton Mall shopping center, said in May that he had been contacted by U.N. officials about the 1.2 million-square-foot office project he has in mind for that site.

The catch, he said after the U.N. report's release, was that most banks insist on a 10-year-lease from major tenants and not the seven that the U.N. predicts it will need while its old home is being renovated.

That new tower would be just one of three city planners expect to flank a 1.5-acre open space to be known as Willoughby Square.

Lee Silberstein, a spokesman for Thor Equities, said this week that the site near the planned Willoughby Square, adjacent to 1 DeKalb Ave., was indeed being considered by the U.N.

"There have been ongoing discussions," he said.

Atkins said no developers were mentioned or discussed at the meeting with Burnham.

"We didn't get into specifics about that. We just wanted to let them know that Brooklyn was open for business," Atkins said. "We're not privy to any negotiations, so this is a complete guess on my part, but my guess is they're talking to property owners and developers."

Burke, whose organization devised the Downtown Brooklyn Plan, said this week, "There are probably a number of developers that have approached the U.N."

"The U.N. is actively looking in Manhattan and Brooklyn for swing space," he said. "Given all the development potential in Downtown Brooklyn, we're hoping that the U.N. will decide to relocate here, and I think there is a good possibility."

Adams said bringing the U.N. to Downtown Brooklyn would be an enormous coup.

"If Downtown Brooklyn was selected by the U.N. it would send a very powerful message about the appeal of Brooklyn," he said. "Every time news comes out of the U.N., it's coming from Brooklyn, N.Y. That sends a very strong message," he said.

"It would put us on a global map. It's that type of message that is critical to fulfilling the Downtown Brooklyn Plan."

Where to GO...

Continued from page 12...

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\$35, 7:30 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 624-2083.

SUNSET MUSIC SERIES: Waterfront Museum and Show.

Barge hosts The Fourth Street Night Owls at 8 pm, Mingo and the Inner City Blues Band at 9 pm, \$10, 50 kids 12 and younger. Corner Street and the water in Red Hook. (877) 238-5596.

MOVIES ON A ROOF: Rooftop films presents "Tape Freak."

Other films, \$8, 8:30 live music, 9 pm film. Rooftop, Automotive High School, 400 Bedford Ave. (877) 786-1912.

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IMPACT THEATER: "The Institution," 3 pm. See Sat., July 20.

SAT, JULY 30

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PARK SLOPE TOUR: offered by Big Onion Walking Tours. \$15, \$12 seniors, \$10 students and members. 1 pm. Meet at south-east corner of Plaza Street West and Flatbush Avenue. (212) 439-1090.

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CHILDREN

BARNES & NOBLE: Storytime: Favorite Picture Books. 11 am. 106 Court St. (718) 246-4979.

CAROUSEL RIDE: Historic 1912 carousel. \$1 per ride. Noon to 6 pm. Near Flatbush and Ocean Aves. (718) 596-3391.

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MUSIC & MORE: Children's performance series "Greatest World's Wild World," featuring music, illustrated illustrations and songs. Admission by donation. 2 pm. Sackett Bookstore, 143 Seventh Ave. (718) 783-3070.

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Grandparents who are too generous

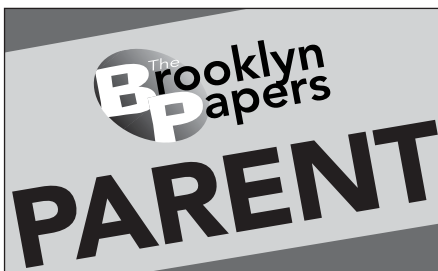
Q: My son's grandparents thrive on giving him extravagant and inappropriate gifts. For his third birthday, it was an above-ground swimming pool. For his fourth birthday, it was a TV and DVD player, and they told him it was for his room. What can we do to stop the gift-giving, or deal with the heartbreak when we have to take the new gift away?

— a mother

A: Here's a sure-fire way to ruin family ties: Giving extravagant presents with strings attached and without consulting the parents.

Taking an over-the-top gift away after the fact isn't the solution. Show the grandparents more reasonable ways to show their love to their grandson.

Your goal: Help your child's grandparents cross the generation gap without stamping on your parental authority. "Fun things could be a summer pass to a local park... a



pass to a zoo, pay for a sports team or lesson dues, or send them to a summer camp, suggests reader Nancy Goshing. "The grandparents need to think about the parents when giving. Big things like a

pool or how much TV is watched should be a parental decision."

When money is no object, how about taking the child on a cruise or train trip? That investment would create memories to last a lifetime, says one mom, whose parents take her kids out to lunch and shopping for a toy on their birthdays.

Or head off to camp. One suggestion, from The Foundation for Grandparenting at www.grandparenting.org, is Grandparents' and Grandchildren's Camp in the Adirondack Mountains.

Sometimes grandparents overindulge a grandchild because they don't know any other way to express their interest and love, says Nancy Samalin, author of "Loving Without Spoiling" (McGraw-Hill, 2003).

In trying to form a tangible connection with their grandchild, they may feel that giving material things is one of the best ways to show their love. If you're concerned that

Parent-to-Parent



By Betsy Flagler

grandparents are going overboard, redirect them. Reinforce the message that what your child really needs is to be with them and get their affection and attention, says Samalin, a parent educator.

Make it clear, some parents say, that you have the authority how a gift such as a DVD player is incorporated into your household. You could share your knowledge, from the American Academy of Pediatrics, that a television in a child's bedroom is inappropriate.

"Have a heart-to-heart talk with the grandparents," says reader Margie Robinson. "Be gentle by saying that you understand they love their grandchild and your gift giving as their wanting to express that love. Then ask them if they will consider a long-term expression of that love."

Suggest that while the child is young, they limit the cost of gifts to a specified amount of about \$25 that could gradually increase each year, Robinson says. If they would like to spend more than that, they could invest in the child's future with the understanding that the money would be used for a college education or wedding, for example.

"I remember using savings bonds that my grandparents bought for me when I was a child to fund a gift for my wedding," Robinson recalls. "By this time, my grandfather was deceased, so it was a special way of feeling that he had a part in my wedding plans."

Give the grandparents a list of several choices that your child likes, says reader Debra Cotton. Suggest that if they want to spend \$100 on your child that the best thing to do is get a U.S. Treasury bond to use for college.

"It is an exciting gift for a 4-year-old? No, but along with a reasonably priced toy that allows the grandparents to see your care about the child now and the child's future," Cotton says.

"And when your son is older, he will appreciate the gifts that will have accumulated over the years."

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The Play's the Thing

with Ed Shakespeare

Welcome home to 'Oisk' & da 'bums

THIS SATURDAY, July 23, the Cyclones are holding a celebration to commemorate the Brooklyn Dodgers' 1955 championship, and Carl Erskine, Clem Labine, and Ed Roebuck, three pitchers from that club, are scheduled to be at Keyspan Park.

Back in '55, the Dodgers entered the World Series having previously lost five times to the cross-town-rival New York Yankees, and the team was getting old. Fans and players wondered if the core of the team, which had been together since the late 1940s, would ever get another chance.

The 1955 Series went to seven games, with the deciding game played at Yankee Stadium. Sandy Amoros made a game-saving catch in left field, Johnny Podres pitched a shutout, and Brooklyn won 2-0.

A mainstay for the Dodgers was starter and right-hander Carl Erskine. He accumulated a big-league record of 128-78, pitched two no-hitters, and once held the record for strikeouts in a World Series game, fanning 14 Yankees in 1953.

In a telephone interview last week from Anderson, Ind., his boyhood hometown where he still resides, Erskine, affectionately called "Oisk" by fans, talked about his years in Brooklyn, the 1955 Dodgers and his return to the borough.

"I was called up to the Dodgers from Fort Worth, Texas, at age 21, and I didn't have enough money to live in a hotel," said Erskine. "There was a YMCA in Brooklyn, the Hanson Place Y, and I got a room. I stayed there the first season and I was 5-0, and I often thought when I got in a slump that I ought to go back and stay at the Y."

Erskine later lived in Brooklyn in Bay Ridge, at Lafayette Walk, and he was with the Dodgers when they lost the pennant on the last day of the season three times, including 1951 to the Giants. Erskine played for Brooklyn in World Series defeats to the Yankees in 1949, 1952 and 1953.

While Brooklyn exploded in spontaneous joy at the moment of the 1955 World Series win, the scene in the Dodger clubhouse minutes later was a little different.

"The moment we went into the clubhouse after celebrating on the field, this great team — the team of [Gil] Hodges and [Pee Wee] Reese and [Duke] Snider, and [Roy] Campanella, and [Jackie] Robinson and [Carl] Furillo — this great team was in a moment or two of deep, serious reflection before the champagne popped, that we had finally gained a world's championship for our fans. This team felt bad that we didn't win [before], but we felt worse that we didn't win [in Ebbets Field] for our fans in Brooklyn who had waited forever."

ERSKINE AND HIS FAMILY still keeps up with people he met while playing with the Dodgers. He e-mails Philip Steiner, the son of Morris Steiner, the family pediatrician during their stay in Brooklyn, and he corresponds with members of his fan club, who were teenagers during his time here.

"We still have lots of close connections in Brooklyn. That's my second home," said Erskine.

The former pitcher will sign copies of his recent book, "What I Learned from Jackie," on his visit to Keyspan Park.

"There is a rush of emotion, because even though it's a different setting — we're not going back to Ebbets Field, we're not going to see our neighbors, probably — we'll be shaking hands with many young fans. But to go back to Brooklyn where there is still baseball being played professionally — that's a thrill. I said once when I came back to see the Cyclones, that I feel like the grandfather to these young kids, who are all gifted players."

When Erskine arrives at Keyspan Park, he'll see the pedestal of the forthcoming statue of Robinson and Reese that will commemorate the moment in May, 1947, on the infield Cincinnati when Reese, from Kentucky, put his arm around Robinson, who was the target of verbal abuse from some Cincinnati players and fans, and the recipient of hate mail, including death threats.

"I thought that [the statue] was a very appropriate way to affix in time a moment when America changed, when we began to accept people on the value of who they were — and that was a signal moment in American history."

Erskine notes, however, that those changes in baseball did not come all at once. "Now, it didn't all happen in that moment, but it signified that that's when the change was put in place. When Jackie put his civies on, he was still a black man in America in the 1940s and early 1950s."

"It took seven years for all the hotels to accept the black players on the Dodgers. So that statue is a significant piece of history if people will read the history and know what it meant."

BRANCH RICKEY, the Dodger executive, signed Robinson, and also signed most of the other players that formed the nucleus of those great Dodger teams of the late 1940s and the 1950s.

Rickey sought men of character and he found them. Year after year, the Dodgers of the post-World War II era were in the pennant race, winning in 1947, 1949, 1953, 1955 and 1956.

But 1955 was special — the year they won it all.

Carl Erskine, Clem Labine (who pitched in four games in that series, winning Game Four and saving Game Five), and reliever Ed Roebuck will be at Keyspan Saturday night to greet fans, new and old.

New fans could learn something about those 1955 champions, and old fans will never forget.

By Ed Shakespeare
for The Brooklyn Papers

The Cyclones don't have any players from Brooklyn on the roster this year, but they do have two players from Long Island, which makes them, well, semi-local.

Mike Sharpe is an outfielder from Kellenburg Memorial High School and St. Thomas Aquinas College, where he hit .374 this year and was named first team All-NYCAC.

For the Clones, Sharpe has played sparingly so far and has been working with hitting coach Donovan Mitchell and roving instructor Darryl Strawberry on his swing.



The East Meadow resident has some college buddies who live in Sheepshead Bay, and Sharpe sometimes stays with them after late home games. Sharpe's grandfather pitched on the same amateur team in Queens as did Yankee pitching great Whitey Ford, but there, according to Sharpe, Ford played

first base.

As a boy, Sharpe's dad, went to Bronx watering holes with his father and Whitey Ford. Sharpe's dad was once treated to a soda by none other than Mickey Mantle.

Another Long Island outfielder on the Clones is Joe Holden, from Wantagh. Joe went to Wantagh High School and Molloy College, in Rockville Center, where he was a history major and commuting student. Joe still commutes, taking the 40-minute trip each day from Wantagh to Keyspan Park.

Holden had a fine year this season in college where he hit .390 and was named the Northeast Region Player of the Year

as well as the NYCAC Player of the Year.

Earlier this year, Holden went 4-for-4 in a game in which he said, "The baseball looked as big as a basketball."

He has continued his hot hitting from the lead-off spot. "I'm adjusting to hitting the pitching in this league," said Holden.

"In college, I faced a few pitchers who threw 90, but here it's practically every night."

He's also adjusting to winds in the outfield at Keyspan and to the large crowds compared to college, but usually 10 or 15 people in the crowd are friends or family and the remainder have been pretty vocal supporters of "Wantagh Joe."



Long Islanders Mike Sharpe and Joe Holden.

Strawberry 'roves' into Keyspan Park

for The Brooklyn Papers

Darryl Strawberry played for all four former or current New York City major-league clubs: The Mets, the Dodgers, the Giants, and the Yankees. But the slugging outfielder's greatest success, was with the Mets' World Series winners in 1986.

Now, Strawberry has begun a new career, as a roving instructor in the Mets farm system.

He was recently at Keyspan Park working with the Cyclones for five days on the home stand that ended July 18.

Strawberry was far too young to have seen the Brooklyn Dodgers play, but he was a fan of what they became — the Dodgers of Los Angeles.

"Growing up in L.A., I was a fan of the Dodgers [under manager Tommy Lasorda, a former Brooklyn Dodger]. I saw some great players, [Steve] Garvey, [Ron] Cey, [Bill] Russell, [Davey] Lopes," Strawberry told The Brooklyn Papers.

In fact, Strawberry is a friend of a former Brooklyn Dodger, Hall of Famer Duke Snider.

"I'll be seeing him in a few weeks up at Cooperstown," said Strawberry.

The new instructor talked about what the Cyclones are going through in Brooklyn.

This is a learning process for these players. They are just getting their feet wet in professional ball. It's a big adjustment from swinging aluminum bats to swinging wooden bats and it's a whole

new adjustment playing in this environment [Keyspan Park].

"It's all about giving these players confidence that they can make it. It's not about their stats right now. We're out to teach them a real understanding of the game."

But it isn't only technical knowledge that Strawberry imparts.

"I try to teach the players to have fun," explained Strawberry. "If you don't have fun in this game and you get frustrated, you'll never succeed. They must be able to balance it."

Strawberry said that he is happy in his current job, and before being asked he emphatically volunteered his answer on whether he wanted to coach in the big leagues.

"No, this is the only thing I want to do. I don't want to go to the big leagues. I want to see kids develop. I want to see [these] kids be successful on the major-league level some day."

Here was Strawberry, working with the Brooklyn players just a short throw away from the spot outside Keyspan Park that will display the statue of Jackie Robinson and Pee Wee Reese. The former Mets outfielder was asked for his reflections on Robinson.

"If it weren't for Jackie Robinson, there wouldn't be me," said Strawberry.

"I can just imagine what he went through. He faced it in a manner of dignity and respect, and he went on to be one of the greatest players to play the game."

— Ed Shakespeare



Darryl Strawberry

Sloppy fielding leads to losing week for Cyclones

By Ed Shakespeare
for The Brooklyn Papers

Williamsport 3
Cyclones 0

July 13 at Keyspan Park

In a poorly played game, the Cyclones committed four errors, walked five Crosscutters, hit three batters, and had two runners thrown out on the bases.

The tone of the game was set in the first inning when Brooklyn starter Jeff Landing sandwiched two walks around the second out. After catcher's interference was called against Drew Butera to force the bases, Landing hit John Santiago with a pitch to force in a run.

In the bottom of the first, Ivan Naccarata made a base running error when he hit a two-out, bases-empty double and was thrown out trying to stretch it into a triple.

Williamsport (10-12) added another run in the third on three singles, one of them a misplayed ball by shortstop Jon Malo.

The Crosscutters scored the game's final run in the eighth when, with two outs, two singles, a walk and a hit batter gave the Cutters a tally.

Landing (1-3) took the loss for the Cyclones (13-8).

Williamsport 9
Cyclones 3

July 14 at Keyspan Park

The Cyclones lost their second straight poorly played game as they



Cyclones catcher Rafael Arroyo tags out a surprised Matt Cooksey, who hadn't been told to slide by Emmanuel Sena (right) Tuesday at Keyspan Park.

once again committed four errors. Williamsport (11-12) scored first in the seventh on a single by Brent Lillibridge. The Crosscutters broke the game open with a seven-run eighth, which included a grand slam by Ryan Searage.

For the Cyclones, center fielder Holden went 4-for-4, including a triple. First baseman Petersen was two for three with a double and triple.

The Cyclones wasted a strong pitching performance by starter Orlando Rengel as he threw five innings, allowing only an unearned run on one hit.

Williamsport 7
Cyclones 3

July 15 at Keyspan Park

The Cyclones lost their third straight game and their sixth straight home game. Williamsport scored in the second when Jason Delaney reached first on catcher's interference against Rafael Arroyo and later scored on a single by Brandon Reddinger.

Brooklyn (13-10) tied the game on a solo home run by second baseman Armando Guebler.

The Crosscutters (12-12) added three runs in the fifth on a two RBI double by James Boone and an RBI single by Steven Pearce.

The Crosscutters tacked on another three runs in the ninth on a Brent Lillibridge homer to left.

Luis Munoz (4-1) was the winning pitcher, while Jorge Reyes (2-2) took the defeat.

Brooklyn 3
Auburn 2

July 16 at Keyspan Park

The Cyclones bounced back on Mookie Wilson Bobblehead Night, defeating the Auburn Doubledays.

Brooklyn (14-10) came into the game having lost six straight contests at home, including their last series, a three-game stand against the Williamsburg Cross-

cutters in which the Cyclones were outscored 19-6, and committed 10 errors.

Auburn (12-12) broke a scoreless tie in the third when catcher Brian Bornmaster singled against Brooklyn starter Bobby Parnell (1-0) and later scored on a groundout by Sean Shoffit.

The Doubledays added a run in the fifth when Anthony Garibaldi doubled in Brian Bornmaster from second.

In the Cyclones seventh, Jesus Gamero singled and Caleb Stewart doubled down the left field line to put two runners in scoring position. Josh Petersen singled in Gamero, sending Stewart to third. Pacheco then singled in Stewart, making the score 2-2.

In the bottom of the eighth, Joe Holden singled and went to second on a balk. Jon Malo was hit with a pitch before Jesus Gamero's two-strike sacrifice put runners on second and third. After Stewart was walked intentionally, Petersen singled in Holden to put Brooklyn in front 3-2.

Eric Brown (1-1) earned the win in relief for Brooklyn and Robert Paul pitched a scoreless ninth for the save despite loading the bases.

**Auburn 5
Brooklyn 4**

July 17 at Keyspan Park

Brooklyn lost a 3-0 lead in a game begun on Sunday and suspended after four innings because of fog.

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Doctoroff: B'klyn key to economy

By Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

The future of New York City's economy depends on Brooklyn, Deputy Mayor Daniel Doctoroff said this week.

At the first-ever joint annual meeting of the Metrotech Business Improvement District (BID) and Fulton Mall Improvement Association (FMIA), Doctoroff, the featured speaker, talked about the strides Brooklyn has made in attracting interest from corporations and businesses, and how the borough will continue to attract them.

The July 14 event was held in the sixth-floor offices of Macy's department store on the Fulton Mall, and for the first time signaled a meeting of the minds between the mall-specific FMIA and the Metrotech BID, which has been incorporated with FMIA in a service agreement since July 2003.

"Last week was the first-ever joint meeting of both organizations," said Kenneth Adams, president of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce. "This represents a new level of coordination and co-operation that will provide better services and improve business conditions in Downtown Brooklyn."

Among the upcoming projects is a plan by FMIA and envisioned by the Thompson Design Group to bring "dramatic street lights fitted with reflective spinners" and other "incremental streetscape improvements" to the pedestrian-heavy Fulton Mall.

The hope is to improve nighttime conditions and add safety and appeal to the foot traffic of the mall after dark by featuring glowing backlit signs, vertical strips of multicolored neon lights along buildings, having glowing rods protruding from the sidewalk to illuminate darker passages and place metallic reflective spinners — like the kind one might hang from a porch or stick in the garden — at intersections.

Doctoroff, the Bloomberg

administration's deputy mayor for Economic Development and Rebuilding, was introduced by the city's Commissioner for Small Business Services, Robert Walsh, who lauded what Doctoroff has done in encouraging and stimulating small businesses with the flourishing creation of BIDs in Brooklyn and beyond.

"When I say this guy works hard, I mean, I can tell you," said Walsh, shaking his head admiringly.

"On a Sunday morning, he's out there. In Bed-Stuy. Walking block by block. Taking notes. It's amazing," Walsh said, placing special emphasis on each sentence.

Doctoroff talked to the room of about 100 businesspersons, community leaders and elected officials about the importance of Brooklyn in terms of preserving the city's industrial and manufacturing districts, and helping create enclaves for new back-office space for large corporations.

"It's dense in New York City," he said, and pointed out that with the exodus of jobs to New Jersey following Sept. 11, 2001, this borough became even more important to the city as a whole.

Michael Weiss, executive director of both the Metrotech BID and FMIA, asked about the impact of some large developments on the area's smaller businesses.

"I think people are concerned about balance in the face of new development," said Weiss. He mentioned developer Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards proposal as an example. That plan calls for the construction of a basketball arena, three to four skyscrapers and 17 other residential high-rises emanating from the intersection of Atlantic and Flatbush avenues.

Doctoroff pointed to the city's plan in creating a new department specifically geared toward retention of industrial jobs, and the value of an agency like Small Business Services in helping existing businesses thrive in an environment that

may bring a draw of new customers or new competition.

"Look at the outreach in everything we do," Doctoroff said.

"The reality is, for a project of this size, we don't know yet what kind of impact it will have. This part of Downtown Brooklyn is crucial to New York's economy," he said, and added that in the coming years, both before and after something gets developed above the MTA rail yards, Brooklyn would become a boon to businesses looking to move back to the city.

Following his speech, Weiss and the FMIA's co-chairs, Albert Laboz and Joseph Sitt, as well as the BID's president, Victoria Aviles, all owners of Downtown businesses, presented him with an original lithograph print of a shipping

harge pulled up to a pier on the Brooklyn waterfront.

"An artist made this after he saw this incredible display of Brooklyn's docks at work," said Weiss, presenting the print to the deputy mayor.

Smiling widely, Doctoroff posed for several pictures with the print, an image that stood in stark contrast to his plans for the working waterfront.

In an April interview with The Brooklyn Papers, Doctoroff said the city has no plan to maintain shipping operations on the Red Hook waterfront, which comprises piers 5 through 12, past 2007.

During a sit-down on April 26, Doctoroff said that he expected any remaining industrial and shipping uses on the piers to move, if they survive at all.

"In fact, we are moving a lot of activity south, to Sunset Park," he said.

BIKER...



Site of Alexander's original piercing studio on 87th Street.

Continued from page 1

over the world.

In 1998, the year before Alexander closed the studio, Time Out NY voted him "Best Piercer," and in 2000, the Village Voice did the same.

Voice sex columnist Tristan Tornino wrote of Alexander, "He's not just gentle, safe, and

clean — he truly appreciates the sacredness of a piercing ritual."

Long Island's Dee Snider, famous as frontman of the '80s hair-metal band Twisted Sister, met Alexander while researching for his movie "Strangeland" (1998) at the East Village body modification shop Gamble NYC. A staff piercer at the trend-setting studio, Alexander treated Snider to what the singer describes on his Web site as the "artful execution of a 'Prince Albert' — which I would soon find out was a male genital piercing."

On a mid-'90s tour through North America and Scandinavia, Alexander played guitar in Snider's band.

Though a man of many dimensions, Alexander never gave up body art. As recently as a few months ago he pierced clients and friends by appointment at Body Art Studio, a glass-front, piercing and tattoo shop on Third Avenue at 88th Street.

"All the time I get calls from piercers in other states and countries wanting to find out about Keith," said the studio's owner and tattoo artist Peter Cavori. "I can't believe he's gone. He was in here just maybe last week thinking me for adjusting a piercing for his sister."

Cavori recalls tattooing a Chinese symbol on Alexander. "He was always real thoughtful, always reminded me of someone famous," said Laura Cavori, Peter's wife and the shop's co-owner. After chiving on her lower lip for a moment, she remembers who — "There was always something very George Clooney about him."

After a particularly tough bike ride in late March, Alexander returned home, logged onto his nontopical net blog and posted an entry titled "Feh."

"The human body is an amazing machine, no?" he quipped. "No. It's fragile and fickle."

At 6:55 a.m. the morning after his death, fellow bloggers had already begun to grieve.

Brooklyn resident and blogger Dan Stein met Alexander only two weeks before his death, riding on the same Shore Parkway path where Alexander's renaissance-man life would end.

The two rode together for a few miles, chatting about biking and Lance Armstrong's chances at the Tour de France. "I feel a real sense of loss that I can't so close to getting to know someone who I think I would have enjoyed having as a friend," Stein wrote.

Donations in Alexander's memory can be made to the Lance Armstrong Foundation.

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'Ratner plan's a terror'

LETTERS

To the editor:

In the wake of the latest terrorist attacks in London, the inadvisability of the Ratner/Gehry/Markowitz/Bloomberg plan to build a series of skyscrapers at the Atlantic Yards location seems more apparent. Won't this be an obvious target for terrorists? How do they expect to find occupants for the office space?

It's too bad that Markowitz appears to have no opposition in the Democratic primary. And Bloomberg will capitalize on the London attacks for his own re-election campaign. You can be sure that Giuliani will be omnipresent in the campaign to strike fear into the hearts of any undecided voters. But the city's cops and firefighters, hailed as the heroes of 9-11 four years ago, will continue to be underpaid by the Bloomberg administration.

In the meantime, elected Democratic officials like Hillary Clinton and Chuck Schumer will continue to suck up to Bloomberg. When are the Democrats going to stick together?

— Gloria Johnson, Park Slope

Eminently bad

To the editor:

With the retirement of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor from the Supreme Court, President Bush must make a critical decision for our country in nominating a new justice. We need to look no further than the recent Supreme Court decision in Kelo v. City of New London to understand the significance of this nomination.

The majority decision of the Supreme Court in this case basically said that the government may use its power of eminent domain to take our homes and give it to someone else simply because it will bring in more tax revenue. Homeowners in New London, Conn. lost their property so that a project with no legitimate "public use" could

be completed. This included a building for a pharmaceutical company. The Fifth Amendment of the Constitution states in part, "...nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation." The significant constitutional question before the court was can economic development be considered a "public use." The court, with this decision, said yes.

The Constitution does not prohibit the government from taking private property but does state that just compensation must be provided and it must be for a "public use." The building of roads, bridges, and parks, for example, has always been considered a "public use." However, in Kelo v. City of New London, the court also included economic development as a "public use."

Our homes, which have lifetimes of memories, can now be taken by the government for no other reason than it will bring in more revenue for the government. No longer is the traditional definition of "public use" a necessity.

Since the days of John Locke, and the writing of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, private property rights have always been part of our most sacred and fundamental liberties as Americans. Up to the New Deal in the 1930s, government had such a limited role in our nation's economy precisely because private property rights were equated with liberty. After all, it was the British invasion of colonial homes that spurred many to consider independence from Great Britain and thus eventually the American Revolution. It is no surprise that our Bill of Rights in the Constitution includes public-use components. However, allowing the seizure of homes simply because it will bring in more tax revenue at a particular site will raise more tax revenue (economic development) is a dangerous precedent.

The role of the Supreme Court in our daily lives is clearly evident in this recent decision. The thought of government being able to seize our homes using eminent domain simply because more tax revenue can be raised from the use of that land without any legitimate public use is something that should frighten us all. This Supreme Court decision is bigger than any one particular project. It is about our long-held fundamental liberties as Americans. Anyone who fails to see this should re-read the Bill of Rights and the writings of John Locke. As President Bush prepares to name a Supreme Court Justice, we all should realize the importance of this appointment — our homes could very well depend on it.

— Bob Caputo, assistant professor of political science, St. Francis College

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A verse to Wal-Mart

The following poem was submitted regarding the article headlined "Wal-Mart's thinking outside the box bog" [The Brooklyn Papers, July 16]:

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— Leon Freilich, Park Slope

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PICTURE SPARKS A THOUSAND WORDS...

Continued from page 1
buildings near Pier 6 and Atlantic Avenue inside the park, said Sloane. One of the towers will rise to 30 stories.

Through a two-building hotel and a restaurant are planned for the park at Old Fulton and Furman streets, and a 16-story residence is planned at John and Adams streets in DUMBO, residents near the southern end of the planned park have complained about getting the brunt of the new high-rise development.

"We are paying a price, and it's important for people to know what that price is," said Sloane.

On July 13, he e-mailed a rendering he made of what he imagined the proposed park's entrance to look like — a skyscraper towering above the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway overpass and neighboring former Watchtower plant at 360



Architect Matthew Urbanski leads park activists on tour of piers 1-5 on Tuesday.

Furman St. — to 51 recipients, including members of the state-mandated Community Advisory Committee to the BBPDC, the development corporation and the designers.

"My purpose is to help the public visualize how the southern entrance of Brooklyn Bridge Park will look," Sloane said, and in the e-mail accused the BBPDC of not including "ANY renderings or images of the proposed buildings of the Atlantic Avenue entrance."

Three architects familiar with the plans were consulted on the image, he said.

Sloane's rendering was lambasted and called inane in a response e-mailed the next day by the BBPDC's executive director.

"The drawing is incorrect about the proposed building location and height," wrote Wendy Leventer, in a response sent to

the same distribution list Sloane had used, as well as to elected officials and members of the press.

"We would also like to correct the statement that, 'The BBPDC has not been forthcoming with information or details regarding the buildings,'" to which she cited "three occasions where views along Atlantic Avenue have been discussed in public meetings."

An original rendering of the Pier 6 high-rise, which Leventer claimed had been released to the public and community groups in meetings, was attached to the e-mail.

The meetings she cited, from January and February, were held in Van Valkenburgh's offices in Manhattan, expressly for the members of the Community Advisory Committee. The meetings were publicized by invitation only, and came before a Feb. 22 open public meeting in

Downtown Brooklyn.

Van Valkenburgh had a similar reaction, saying Sloane's image was misleading, and providing what he called a "to-scale" version.

"Renderings put forth by certain members of the community do not accurately portray the actual development at Pier 6, which is needed to help define and fund the park. In fact, they distort the Brooklyn Papers."

A visual presentation and design concept for the project have been repeatedly shown to the community," he wrote. Silberstein added that the image sent out by the BBPDC in response to Sloane's e-mail was first shown as part of a Power Point presentation at a community meeting on April 16 at Long Island College Hospital.

Sloane said the image has not widely enough been made public. "We don't have anybody that recalls seeing it," he said, referring to the CAC.

As of press time, the BBPDC Web site did not contain the rendering. Silberstein added, "There's no better way for people to see what the proposed development is going to be than to take a look at the model. Any rendering is going to be from an artist's perspective and is open to interpretation."

Sloane used a different terminology. "They cheated it," he said of the BBPDC rendering. "It's not from the pedestrian's viewpoint, it's back further from the street."

"That's why they didn't play it up," said Sloane. "It wasn't distributed, it wasn't up on the Web site and it wasn't released to the press."

Tour of piers

About 50 community members met in the muggy, sweltering heat at Fulton Ferry Landing Tuesday night to take a walking tour of the piers slated for Brooklyn Bridge Park development and get the first up-close look at the East River site, guided by Matthew Urbanski, a principal of Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates.

Most of the attendees were members of the Community Advisory Council to the development corporation, who had been notified by e-mail of the gathering.

Standing on various pylons, bollards and stairs to project his voice over the roar of Furman Street traffic and boats jetting across the harbor, Urbanski ges-

nured to where new landscaping, plantings, plaza areas, access roads and buildings would be situated for the new park.

At Pier 1, he stopped to explain how the two-building hotel and adjacent residential suites would be separated from Furman Street and the park by being an "island unto itself" surrounded by a street on either side.

Sandy Balboza, president of the Atlantic Avenue Betterment Association and a CAC member, thought Sloane's images helped her visualize the impact of the building design, but the walk-through presentation spoke more to her, she said, than renderings or models.

"I think [the pictures] will show people visually what everybody's talking about, how the housing is going to dominate the entrances," she said.

"But I think the tour last night really said it all," she told The Papers.

"What came out of Matt [Urbanski's] mouth — that they want to separate the park from the housing — in other words separate the public part of the park from the private part of the park, says the housing is inside the park," she said. "It's always going to create a tension between the private condos and the public space."

"I don't know the difference between separating and privatizing. To me if you're separating, you're privatizing," Sloane agreed.

"I want to see the debate be about the entrance, not about the merits of the various drawings," pointing out that both drawings proved the point to him. "It doesn't look like a park, it looks like a housing development."

REFUSAL...

Continued from page 1

details of their bids public until the MTA does so.

In June 2004, MTA Chairman Peter Kalikow said in a letter to Westchester Assemblyman Richard Brodsky, chairman of the public authority committee, that the MTA would "retain the services of qualified appraisers."

As recently as February of this year, MTA spokesman Tom Kelly said that an independent appraisal of the value of the property — known as the Vanderbilt Yards — was in the works and would be announced.

To date, none has been announced, but Kelly also said in February and again in March that no request for proposals would be issued seeking competing bids.

On May 25, the MTA did issue an RFP giving potential developers 30 business days to respond with a bid rivaling Forest City Ratner's 2-year-old plan to build a basketball arena and 17 residential, office and commercial towers over the MTA property and on adjacent private and city property. The deadline for submissions was July 6.

Mercedes Padilla, an MTA spokeswoman, said Tuesday that the bids had not yet made it to any MTA board members.

"It's being reviewed by the staff. At this moment there is nothing new with the bids," said Padilla to repeated questions about the status of the bid vote. She said she was not sure whether the bidders had been sworn to secrecy by the MTA.

Both Forest City Ratner and the Esteli Development Company, the two bidders, declined to discuss details of their bids.

"The bid now is being re-

viewed by the MTA staff, then they will be given to the MTA board members so they can review the bids. We hope to do that as quickly as possible, and they will be made public at the appropriate time," said Padilla.

Asked when the land's independently appraised value would be announced, Padilla said, "As soon as [the bids] have been reviewed by the MTA board members," but admitted she was not sure whether an independent appraisal had yet been undertaken or completed.

With the next MTA board meeting scheduled for this Wednesday, July 27, members of the community and civic groups fear the board members, the majority of whom are appointed by Gov. George Pataki, will go ahead and approve a bid without being adequately informed of the property's true worth.

Beverly Dolinsky, director of the MTA's Permanent Citizen's Advisory Committee (PCAC), is a non-voting member of the MTA board.

"I saw Koco Krasnik, [director of Real Estate for the MTA], last night, and I said, 'You better open up this process, because you're going to be up for a lot of criticism if you don't,'" Dolinsky told The Brooklyn Papers this week.

"He said to me they haven't finished evaluating the bids yet, and that's why it hasn't opened up. We feel they should be opened up. We feel the board has a fiduciary responsibility to their riders. But it's really been kept very close to the vest, and I have no idea why," Dolinsky said.

The PCAC was created by the state Legislature in 1981 give mass transit riders a say in the formulation and implementation of MTA policy and to hold the MTA Board and management accountable.

Asked about the seeming advantage to Forest City Ratner of having been involved in negotiations with the authority for the past year, she said the agency still owed their public a fair process.

"Even if they've had an ongoing conversation with them, I think they have a fiduciary responsibility to their riders. I don't think they expected a second bid, and I think that came as a surprise," Dolinsky said.

Forty-five other community and civic groups, transportation advocates and public interest organizations signed on to a July 15 letter to Kalikow demanding that the MTA board postpone their vote on the bids.

Calling on the MTA to provide greater accountability than it did with the Hudson Yards RFP in Manhattan — where the

New York Jets and Mayor Michael Bloomberg wanted to build a football stadium — the letter demands that the details of all bids be disclosed immediately, and that Kalikow make good on his promise to hire an independent appraiser. Copies of the letter were sent to Pataki, Bloomberg, Brodsky and state Sen. Vincent L. Cellino, of Putnam County, who has introduced legislation seeking to give more oversight over public authorities, like the MTA, to the Legislature.

An appraisal commissioned by the MTA of the 33-acre Hudson Yards from the Manhattan site to be worth \$800 million. The Vanderbilt Yards, in

Prospect Heights, by the same per-acre calculation, would be worth \$229 million.

The Brooklyn site, however, sits beside a major transportation hub, with 10 subway lines and the Long Island Rail Road stopping at the Atlantic Terminal, and the street and is within walking distance of many shopping districts and cultural attractions.

Jeremy Soffin, director of public affairs for the Regional Plan Association, said his group signed the letter to urge that a better standard be practiced by the MTA.

"We spent a lot of time researching and fighting the West Side stadium," said Soffin. "It

set a poor precedent for how the MTA conducts its business. There, as well as this case in Brooklyn, we felt the MTA should shine some light on its processes in concern to how it sells property."

"We feel the public has a right to know."

Deb Howard, executive director of the Pratt Area Community Council, whose organization has responded mostly to city-level RFPs for development sites, but has also worked on state-level RFPs for funding, said the process seemed unclear.

"Typically, you're given more time, not necessarily that much more time, but it's not a stacked deck," Howard said.

"An RFP is typically issued to everyone at the same time, the organization is generally not negotiating with a developer for two years prior to that."

"Given the size for this project, the time limit was very short," she added. "Typically, it's 60 days for a city project, and usually you know the sites in your neighborhood."

Daniel Goldstein, a member of the anti-Ratner plan community group Develop-Don't Destroy Brooklyn, said the letter drew many groups together.

"The letter has nothing to do with the Ratner plan or the Esteli plan, but has to do with the MTA acting with some accountability, transparency and fairness," he said.

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